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OFFICIAL REPORT

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OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
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26 April 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 26 April 2011

TREASURY

UK Convergence Programme (2010-11)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Section 5 of the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1993 requires the Government to report to Parliament for its approval an assessment of the UK's medium-term economic and budgetary position. This assessment is comprised of the Budget report and the Office of Budget Responsibility's (OBR's) "Economic and fiscal outlook". This then forms the basis of the UK's convergence programme, which is therefore based entirely on information already presented to Parliament. The UK is obliged to submit a convergence programme annually to the European Commission under article 126 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union (the "Lisbon" treaty).

Article 126 is the legal basis for the stability and growth pact, which is the co-ordination mechanism for EU fiscal policies and requires member states to avoid excessive Government deficits, although the UK, by virtue of its protocol to the treaty opting out of the euro, is only required to "endeavour to avoid" excessive deficits.

The Budget report and the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR's) "Economic and fiscal outlook" were deposited in the Library of the House on 23 March 2011. A small proportion of the content of the convergence programme may be drawn from other material that has already been presented to Parliament, such as last year's spending review. All of the information it contains has therefore already been published and made available to Members.

A debate in this House has been scheduled for 27 April in order for the House to approve this assessment.

The UK's convergence programme has been published today. Copies have been deposited in the Library of the House and the document is available electronically via the HM Treasury website. It will be submitted to the EU by 30 April as required by the European Commission. While the convergence programme itself is not subject to parliamentary approval or amendment, a small supply of advance copies was made available to Members through the Vote Office on 21 April.

Informal ECOFIN (8-9 April 2011)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) was held in Brussels on 8-9 April 2011. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury also represented the Treasury.

The informal ECOFIN began with an extended session of the Eurogroup to discuss Portugal's request for financial assistance. Ministers released the following statement:

> Ministers acknowledged the Portuguese authorities' request for financial assistance. Ministers invited the Commission, the ECB, the IMF and Portugal to set up a programme and take appropriate action to safeguard financial stability.
>
> In the context of a joint EU/IMF programme, the financial assistance package to Portugal should be financed on the European side within the framework provided by the European financial stabilisation mechanism (EFSM) and the European financial stability facility (EFSF).
>
> Euro-area and EU financial support will be provided on the basis of a policy programme which will be supported by strict conditionality and negotiated with the Portuguese authorities, duly involving the main political parties, by the Commission, in liaison with the ECB, and the IMF. The preparations will start immediately to reach a cross-party agreement ensuring that an adjustment programme can be adopted by mid-May and implemented swiftly after the formation of a new Government.
>
> The programme will be based on three pillars:
>
> An ambitious fiscal adjustment to restore fiscal sustainability.
>
> Growth and competitiveness-enhancing reforms by removing rigidities in the product and labour markets and by encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, allowing for a sustainable and balanced growth and unwinding internal and external macro-economic imbalances, while safeguarding the economic and social position of its citizens. This should include an ambitious privatisation programme.
>
> Measures to maintain the liquidity and solvency of the financial sector.
>
> The set of measures announced by the Portuguese authorities on 11 March is a starting point in this regard.
>
> We call on all political parties in Portugal to conclude swiftly an agreement on the adjustment programme and form a new Government after the upcoming elections with the ability to fully adopt and implement the agreed fiscal consolidation and structural reform measures. After an agreement has been reached with the Portuguese authorities and supported by the main political parties, the programme will be endorsed by the ECOFIN Council and the Eurogroup, in line with national procedures, on the basis of a Commission and ECB assessment.
>
> The Ministers of the Eurogroup and ECOFIN, the Commission and the ECB are looking forward to ambitious fiscal adjustment, comprehensive structural reforms and measures to safeguard financial stability that will address the fiscal and structural challenges of the Portuguese economy in a decisive manner. It will thereby also help restore confidence and safeguard financial stability in the euro area.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the economic governance package, with a focus on the set of indicators which will be used to monitor macro-economic imbalances. They also discussed the Romanian balance of payment assistance.

During the afternoon session, Ministers were joined by Central Bank governors. Discussions centred on financial stability and bank stress tests, where the Government believe that the EU needs rigorous tests with appropriate back-up plans. There was a clear signal that much had been achieved with the setting up of the new supervisory framework, but that momentum needed to be maintained to cement the roles of the European supervisory authorities and prevent future crises.

On the second day, discussions focused on commodity markets, a forward look to the G20, IMF and World Bank spring meetings, and the comprehensive response to the crisis.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am pleased to announce that the Government are setting up a new Animal Health and Welfare Board for England. This is an important step in sharing responsibility for animal health and welfare with animal keepers and other interested parties. The aim is to build trust between Government and animal keepers and strengthen arrangements for working together to develop a true partnership.

Animal diseases, whether outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, or bluetongue, or current ones such as bovine TB, or salmonella, can be costly to animal keepers and Government alike. It is in everyone's interests to reduce the risk and costs of disease outbreaks relating to all kept animals, including farmed animals, horses and pets, and to maintain our reputation for high welfare standards.

Since the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak, industry and Government have worked more closely together to agree disease control strategies, and there has been a series of proposals and consultations about what respective responsibilities should be in future. Most recently the report of the independently chaired advisory group on responsibility and cost-sharing was published on 13 December 2010. I record here my thanks to the chair and all the members of the advisory group for their work.

In developing our proposals for the board we have carefully considered the group's recommendations, and listened to the views expressed about them since the report's publication.

The new board will have responsibility for strategic animal health and welfare policy and oversight of its delivery in relation to England. It will be composed of around 12 members, who will be the senior DEFRA officials with responsibility for animal health and welfare (currently five people including the chief veterinary officer in his England role) and around seven to eight external non-executive members. The board will be the principal source of departmental advice to DEFRA Ministers on strategic animal health and welfare policy in relation to England.

We will seek external members (including the chair) who between them, have the skills, knowledge and experience to understand the whole range of strategic policy matters. We are looking for individuals who have the trust and respect of animal keepers and all other stakeholders.

Each external member of the board will have responsibility for engaging with a set of stakeholder groups and ensuring that the views of those groups are articulated in the board's decision-making processes. We will consult the NFU and other stakeholder groups on the best way to organise this to ensure effective two-way communication.

The external members of the board will serve in an individual capacity. Members will be appointed on merit in a transparent process. I will advertise the posts publicly and invite organisations to encourage suitable candidates, who can demonstrate the confidence and trust of stakeholders and their representative organisations, to put themselves forward.

I expect the board to be appointed in the second half of 2011, and its views will shape the way DEFRA does business in the future and how it manages key relationships with delivery bodies, particularly the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

This is an innovative and exciting approach to bringing those affected by Government decisions into the heart of the process in order to create a more direct link between those making DEFRA policy and those experiencing the delivery of that policy. Its success will depend on the support of animal keepers and stakeholder organisations for the board and its members. I look forward to continuing the constructive dialogue already evident in the responses to the advisory group report.

The board will not deliver results overnight. This is a new way of working for both Government and stakeholders. I expect it gradually to strengthen joint working and lead to a greater understanding by all of the practices that collectively and cost-effectively reduce disease risk and maintain high welfare. Agreement on how best to achieve them should lead to greater adherence to responsible practices and thence to reduced animal disease risk and improved standards of health and welfare. This will benefit the Government, the public and animal keepers.

The advisory group recommended that cost-sharing should be taken forward in a staged approach once responsibility sharing arrangements were in place. Once established I will look to the board for advice on funding arrangements as it develops animal health and welfare policy for the future.

The full terms of reference for the board are published alongside this announcement (at http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/diseases/sharing/) which fulfils one of the commitments in the Government's structural reform plan and the Department's business plan.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

International Criminal Tribunals (Special Court for Sierra Leone)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): The Special Court for Sierra Leone is the first international criminal tribunal to be funded entirely from voluntary contributions from Governments. Since its creation in 2002, the United Kingdom has been a strong and steady contributor of funds to the Special Court. As a demonstration of our continued support, I am informing the House that the Government have recently contributed an additional £3 million; the United Kingdom has now contributed around £[illegible] million overall. Our contributions have helped the Special Court successfully to investigate and prosecute eight of those who bore the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed during its bloody civil war. The Government's latest donation will also help allow the Special Court to complete the trial of Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia, the first former head of state to be brought to trial on charges of war crimes for actions he took while in office. We look forward to the verdict from the court this summer.

Furthermore, the Government support and promote international justice widely as a key pillar of their foreign policy. The United Kingdom is active in all six existing international criminal tribunals and I can inform the House that, in addition to its support for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Government have recently contributed a further £1 million to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and a further £1 million to the special tribunal for Lebanon.

The Government are fully committed to the principle that there should be no impunity for the most serious crimes at the international level. The effective prosecution of those who commit these crimes is fundamental to suppressing such crimes, which in turn is vital in the development of communities which are more stable and prosperous. I applaud the important work of all of the international tribunals.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration Policy (Marriage of non-EEA Nationals)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Tackling abuse of the system is a significant element of the Government's immigration policy. This includes preventing marriage in the UK being used solely to gain an immigration advantage. The Government have been working with partners to look at ways in which the problem of sham marriages can be addressed.

I am therefore pleased to welcome procedural changes which have been made by the Church of England which will afford closer scrutiny and help to deter or prevent those seeking to marry in order to gain an immigration advantage. The Church of England has issued new guidance to allow for greater scrutiny for applications for marriage where one or both parties is a non-EEA national (that is, not a national of a country that belongs to the European economic area or a British citizen).

This will allow the clergy greater opportunity to satisfy themselves, prior to the ceremony, that the marriage is a genuine one and, where they have concerns, to refer the matter to the UK Border Agency.

In order to enable the Church of England to introduce its new procedures in respect of non-EEA nationals, I have agreed that use can be made of an exception under the Equality Act 2010 for differential treatment on the basis of nationality.

These measures took effect from 11 April and a copy of the ministerial approval and guidance have been placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Welfare Reform Bill (Universal Credit Contingency Fund Advance)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): The Department for Work and Pensions has obtained approval for an advance from the Contingencies Fund of £18 million to allow for the development of IT for universal credit before Royal Assent. This amount is part of the proposed investment in universal credit of £2 billion agreed at the time of the spending review.

Universal credit is to replace a range of existing means-tested benefits and tax credits for people of working age, rolling out in 2013. It will improve work incentives, simplify the benefits system and tackle administrative complexity.

The Department is using a flexible approach to IT development where the build of IT components is brought forward to allow for early customer testing. The advance from the Contingencies Fund will enable an earlier move to the new simplified benefit than could be achieved without it. This enables the Department to achieve better value for money by enabling a more rapid take-up of online claims with lower operational delivery costs. Parliamentary approval for additional resource and capital of £50 million for this new service will be sought in the main estimate for the Department for Work and Pensions. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £18 million will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 27 April 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

United Kingdom Space Agency

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): I have tasked the UK Space Agency to provide policy support to Ministers on civil space issues and to lead a civil space programme which delivers maximum economic, scientific, and policy benefits for the UK.

I have set the UK Space Agency the following targets for 2011-12:

1. Improve performance of the agency programme over the period 2011-12 to 2014-15.
2. To ensure the ESA programme brings benefit to UK industry, and the research base.
3. To initiate a national technology programme, jointly funded with industry as a means of accelerating the development of the International Space Innovation Centre.
4. Undertake an impact assessment of the Outer Space Act 1986 to develop reforms which will remove restrictions which put UK operators at a competitive disadvantage, and prepare proposals for new regulation for space vehicles to promote space tourism in the UK.
5. Work with Ofcom to support international reform at the world radio conference of the processes used to gain access to orbit satellite slots to ensure that British industry has full and fair access to them.
6. Promote wider international co-operation and have a clear export support policy, including guidance on export controls and assistance for industry.

Target measurement techniques:

Target 1: Efficiency gains in administration costs will be reflected in the budget profiles when agreed. The use of a scorecard technique across all programmes is being developed for use in 2011-12.

Target 2: Measured by the industrial return figures of ESA that reflect the work won by UK organisations against an ideal of return co-efficient of 1.

Target 3: A report showing the placement of the first tranche of contracts to the value of £10 million in 2011-12 on key technology activities in the national technology road map will be produced.

Target 4: A report showing how the changes produce a level playing field will be prepared.

Target 5: Agreement at the WRC conference in February 2012 on the way forward.

Target 6: Clear guidance available to industry by December 2012. On co-operation a report on the status of implementation of agreements with other agencies will be prepared.

The corporate plan period referred to is the financial years 2011-12 to 2014-15.

TREASURY

Costing Parliamentary Questions

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): The Treasury has conducted its annual indexation exercise of the cost of oral and written parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these costs are increased in line with increases in underlying costs. The revised costs, which will apply from today, are:

Oral Questions £437
Written Questions £159

The disproportionate cost threshold (DCT) will remain at £800.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Work (Easter Recess 2011)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I would like to update hon. Members on the main items of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose on 5 April 2011.

Transparency

The Department continues to reinforce the importance of local transparency, audit openness and accountability. On 13 April, I announced new transparency rules which will require councils to publicise to the press and public, on their website, the little-known rights to inspect their detailed financial accounts, ledgers and records.

In a deregulatory move, changes will also reduce the financial bureaucracy and burdens imposed on the smallest local authorities. Increasing the budget threshold to £6.5 million means that up to 100 smaller local bodies (assorted parish councils, drainage boards and joint committees) will immediately benefit from less burdensome audit requirements, reducing costs on reporting duties imposed by Whitehall and making it easier for authorities to be accountable to their community.

Council tax

On 13 April, I published new figures showing who pays what for local government services. The new analysis makes it possible to compare how much residents contribute in council tax and conversely how much their area receives in formula grant. It marks another step towards demystifying the local government finance system for taxpayers.

Community Celebrations

With Easter, St George's day and the impending royal wedding, there are great opportunities for communities across the nation to come together and celebrate. Alongside my Cabinet colleagues and the Prime Minister, we urged councils to adopt a common-sense approach to street parties and to help local residents from all backgrounds to come together and reinforce our shared identity and sense of Britishness. This included publishing an updated version of the deregulatory guidance on organising street parties, shooting down myths and misconceptions around them.

In addition to this, the Department flew the flag of St George above its headquarters and I encouraged public bodies to fly the English flag as a unifying symbol for the English nation, to be followed by flying the Union flag come the royal wedding.

Homes and tenants

Millions of social housing tenants take real pride in their homes and my Department believes they should have the power and incentive to take control of the maintenance of their own homes. On 7 April the Minister for Housing and Local Government launched tenant cashback. Tenant cashback will allow residents to take more control of their repairs budget for their homes, taking on their own repairs and keeping any cash savings they have made.

Tenants will also be able to pool their resources to create a "community cashback" account, which could be used to fund improvements to the local area for the benefit of all their residents. The plan will give tenants more power over their homes and neighbourhoods; allow poorer households to build up savings, strengthen bonds between neighbours; and provide work for small traders.

Decentralisation

Ending the culture of top-down Whitehall management and putting the focus on local accountability and local communities is a key priority for the Department.

On 12 April, the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill), set out how local decision making and restoring focus on local communities will be central to fire and rescue service policy, as the Department published its response to the Fire Futures reports.

The voluntary and community sector are relied upon by communities across the nation and we believe they should be given the freedom from excessive burdens and red tape that can impede their work. On 13 April, I announced a new fair deal for the voluntary and community sector which calls on councils to give greater support to local community and voluntary groups. The social responsibility deal will seek to avoid disproportionate reductions in funding and encourage a more collaborative approach involving councils working with organisations to shape the future of their service. We are also giving councils the freedoms to serve the local community and work more flexibly with the sector by scrapping the 56 pages of statutory guidance on local priorities which spelled out exactly how councils should engage with the people in their area.

Increasing housing supply

We believe that a key barrier to increasing the much-needed housing supply is the lack of land and buildings available for residential development or conversion. Many towns and cities have office blocks, warehouses and business parks needlessly lying empty. By unshackling developers from a legacy of bureaucratic planning we can help them turn thousands of vacant commercial properties into enough new homes to jump start housing supply and help get the economy back on track

On 8 April, my Department published a consultation proposing to abolish the planning approval requirement for changing use from a commercial property to a residential property; deregulating the planning system to increase housing supply. This is part of a wider review of use classes orders and its interaction with permitted development rights, which will further unlock unnecessary planning restrictions and help stimulate sustainable development.

Neighbourhood Planning

We believe that local people should have greater power and support to shape planning and development in their local area. On 13 April, the Minister with responsibility for decentralisation, the Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), announced that four organisations with expertise in planning will share a £3.2 million fund to provide assistance to local groups developing neighbourhood plans.

Communities can choose to take up free advice and guidance depending on their needs through The Prince's Foundation, Locality, The Royal Town Planning Institute, and the National Association of Local Councils in partnership with the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Each organisation will use its expertise, skills and track record advising on development to empower communities to reach the full potential of their neighbourhood plan from start to finish.

Planning and Travellers

On 13 April, I announced proposals for a more localist and fair way of providing Traveller sites. New proposed planning policy will give the green belt and countryside more robust protection, give local councils more discretion and local planning authorities a stronger hand in supporting appropriate development. The proposals will also remove the central guidance to councils on compulsory purchasing of land for Traveller sites. In consultation with local communities, councils will have the freedom and responsibility to determine the right level of Traveller site provision in their area, while ensuring fairness in the planning system.

The proposed planning policy is capable of being regarded as a material consideration in planning decisions. I would encourage local councils, elected representatives and community groups to respond to the consultation.

HEALTH

Written Parliamentary Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): In answering a parliamentary question from the hon. Member for Worthing West, (Sir Peter Bottomley), 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 379W, I provided details of the protection afforded by the two HPV vaccines licensed for use in the United Kingdom. These are Cervarix manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline and Gardasil manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur MSD.

However, my answer also referred to the cross-protection afforded by Cervarix, but I omitted to provide equivalent information on Gardasil and in doing so may have presented an incomplete view to the House.

In the case of Gardasil, the "Summary of Product Characteristics" states that

> "statistically significant efficacy against disease was demonstrated against HPV types…related to HPV 16 (primarily HPV31) whereas no statistically significant efficacy was observed for HPV types … related to HPV 18 (including HPV 45). For the 10 individual HPV types, statistical significance was only reached for HPV 31".

To ensure clarity and completeness of information about the efficacy of both vaccines, I have placed copies of their "Summary of Product Characteristics" in the Library. Copies of the SPCs for Cervarix and for Gardasil are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office and for noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. They can also be seen at:

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/20204/SPC/Cervarix/

www.medicines.org.uk/EMC/medicine/19016/SPC/GARDASIL/

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2011

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy to the opening speeches made in each House during the debates on the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2011. The debates took place in the Fourth Delegated Legislation Committee on Monday 28 March, column 4, and in the House of Lords Grand Committee on Tuesday 29 March 2011, column GC 155:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmgeneral/deleg4/110328/110328s01.htm.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110329-gc0001.htm#11032963000180

Both speeches made reference to the introduction of a new fee for providing certain stateless persons the ability to acquire the status of British protected person. The status means they can receive consular protection, a British passport and are eligible to register as a British citizen if they meet the appropriate criteria. The volumes under this route are minimal. However, it is a cost to the agency to process these applications and we believe that the rights associated with this status are valuable and therefore these applications should be charged for.

I can confirm that this fee was erroneously omitted from the regulations and as such will not be introduced as planned. A very small number of people are estimated to have been affected by this—there have been only two such applications in the past 12 years. I am now announcing a correction to the speech made during the debates. My officials will ensure that this is made clear to any applicants applying under this route, on the UK Border Agency website, www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk. However, I will also take the opportunity to introduce this fee when I next make an amendment to the existing regulations.

TRANSPORT

Department for Transport (Decision Making)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I am announcing today reforms to the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise. My Department's business plan states we will

> "reform the way transport projects are assessed and funding prioritisation decisions are made so that the benefits of low-carbon proposals are fully recognised".

It specifies that in order to achieve this we will:

> (a) review and revise DfT guidance on appraising transport projects, and
>
> (b) review and revise DfT processes for assessing schemes and supporting ministerial decisions.

The rest of this statement explains how we have met these commitments.

DfT guidance on appraising transport projects

The evidence supporting decisions needs to be robust. Updates and changes that I am making to my Department's guidance on appraising transport projects will recognise the benefits of low-carbon proposals more accurately.

Spending review decisions were informed by a value-for-money measure, used across Government. This measure incorporated the latest monetary values of carbon, published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, which are higher than previous values. It also treated indirect tax revenues (such as fuel duty) in a way consistent with the Department for Transport's "in-draft" benefit-cost ratio (BCR) formula. These changes tend to improve the BCRs of schemes that reduce carbon emissions and weaken the BCRs of schemes that result in higher carbon emissions.

Stakeholder groups have made representations that the Department should consider amending the value of time to reflect regional variations in earnings. We have considered these representations and have decided not to make any change at this stage, but we will keep the issue under review.

Over the coming days, my officials will update the appraisal guidance to incorporate the higher carbon values and new BCR formula that were used in the spending review. In addition, the Department will also release further changes to the appraisal guidance that reflect Government's priorities and recent updates to values and methodologies. A full list of these changes can be found on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk/webtag).

DfT processes for assessing schemes and supporting ministerial decisions

Today, my Department is publishing "The Transport Business Case" which sets out the Department's approach to producing business cases that support ministerial decisions. This approach ensures decisions are made by taking account of all the relevant information set out in five cases, consistent with the Treasury Green Book, specifically, to show whether schemes:

> are supported by a robust case for change that fits with wider public policy objectives—the "strategic case";
>
> demonstrate value-for-money—the "economic case";
>
> are commercially viable—the "commercial case";
>
> are financially affordable—the "financial case"; and
>
> are achievable—the "management case".

This means that there will no longer be a separate process called NATA.

Option development and presentation

My Department will revise the formats used to present information to support decision-making so that all the five cases receive appropriate consideration from an early stage in a clear and transparent way. Forthcoming changes to the guidance will set out to scheme promoters how to develop a range of innovative solutions to transport problems in the early stages of option development and a clear process for option selection that aligns with the subsequent appraisal process. Today, I am also publishing the "Early Assessment and Sifting Tool", which will aid scheme promoters in comparing and refining options in those early stages.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 28 April 2011

DEFENCE

Call-out Order to Contribute to the UN

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): With the expiry of the call-out order made on 1 May 2010, a new order has been made under section 56(1) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable reservists to continue to be called out into permanent service as part of the United Kingdom's contribution to the United Nations forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The new order is effective until 30 April 2012. Some 224 reservists are currently called out in support of UNFICYP, of whom 27 are in Cyprus.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Malawi (Expulsion of British High Commissioner)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I would like to inform the House of recent developments in our bilateral relationship with Malawi.

On 26 April the Government of Malawi communicated to us their decision to expel the British high commissioner to Malawi. Mr Fergus Cochrane-Dyet. That decision is totally unacceptable and unwarranted. Mr Cochrane-Dyet is an able and effective diplomat who has behaved with integrity throughout his posting to Lilongwe, and who retains the full confidence of the Government. It is a worrying sign that the Malawian Government are expending their energies in this way, rather than focusing on the real and substantial challenges facing it, including the need for improved governance.

At my direction the FCO yesterday told the acting high commissioner of Malawi that she and her dependants must leave the UK. I have also asked my officials, working closely with their colleagues elsewhere in Government, rapidly to review the full range of our wider relationship with Malawi.

The Government intend to maintain diplomatic relations with Malawi. But we will not immediately appoint a successor to Mr Cochrane-Dyet.

HEALTH

Social Care PFI Credits

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): On Monday 11 April 2011, we confirmed continued financial support rising to £10.1 million by 2014-15 for four local authority social care PFI projects in England.

Following the spending review in October 2010, which transferred responsibility for PFI schemes to sponsor Departments, the Department of Health undertook a full review of the affordability of the social care PFI scheme and the quality of the proposals that had bid for support. This is in line with the cross-Government reassessment of PFI schemes to ensure they do not create an unaffordable burden.

The projects to receive PFI credits are based in Leeds, Hull, Sandwell and Hammersmith. They will all provide community social care and health facilities for vulnerable people. These projects were among 17 that the Department reviewed. The criteria for the review were: available funding, deliverability and minimising waste—giving priority to those projects already in procurement.

The Government will look to the local authorities whose projects were unsuccessful to give priority to them as front-line services or to look at other ways of providing these services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 (Remedial) Order 2011 and consequential amendments to the Registration of Marriage Regulations 1986, the Registration of Marriages (Welsh Language) Regulations 1999 and the Civil Partnership (Registration Provision) Regulations 2005 were made on 25 April and will come into force on 9 May 2011. Copies of the remedial order and regulations will be available from http://www.legislation.gov.uk in due course.

The remedial order will have the effect of removing the certificate of approval scheme which the UK courts found incompatible with the European convention on human rights (ECHR). From 9 May, those persons subject to immigration control wishing to give notice of marriage or civil partnership will no longer be required to demonstrate that they have an entry clearance granted for the purpose of marriage or registering civil partnership; a certificate of approval from the Home Office; or settled status in the UK.

Tackling sham marriage abuse remains a priority. Building on success over the last year, which has resulted in 155 arrests, the UK Border Agency will continue to investigate suspected abuse and, where possible, disrupt marriages before they take place. The UK Border Agency is also working closely with the three General Register Offices and partners such as the Anglican Church to look at ways in which the problem of sham marriages can be addressed.

The requirement for a person subject to immigration control to give notice of marriage or civil partnership at a designated register office will remain unchanged. This requirement allows the UK Border Agency to focus enforcement action on specific register offices.

As part of our reform of the immigration system, the Government intend to consult later in the year on family migration, including measures to tackle sham marriages and other abuse, promote integration and reduce burdens on the taxpayer.

TRANSPORT

Written Parliamentary Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in my written answer (45254) given on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 97W, about assessment of the effects on competition in the railway industry of the acquisition of Arriva Trains by Deutsche Bahn. The correct answer is that the European Commission carried out an assessment of the Deutsche Bahn acquisition of Arriva plc in 2010. A copy of the European Commission's assessment of the effects can be viewed on their website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 3 May 2011

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the fifth progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

The report focuses on key developments during the month of March.

Progress across the political and security spectrum was, by and large, positive in March. The continuing rise in the number of weapons caches found, the attack on the UN compound in Mazar-e-Sharif on 1 April and other protests against the burning of the Koran in the US, are clear signs however that the insurgency remains a serious threat to stability in Afghanistan.

President Karzai repeated his invitation to the Taliban to return to peaceful Afghan society. He invited

> "all Afghanistan's neighbours and in particular officials in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to give their full and cordial support to our efforts for peace and reconciliation".

UN Security Council Resolution 1974 renewed the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMA) in Afghanistan on 22 March.

President Karzai announced the first seven provinces and urban districts to begin the process of transition to Afghan-led security responsibility, the first step towards Afghanistan assuming full responsibility for its own security by the end of 2014. President Karzai's announcement on security transition was warmly welcomed by Afghans.

The Afghan national army led an important operation in Helmand, clearing a route of improvised explosive devices and seriously disrupting the insurgency without the active support of international security assistance forces.

The lack of an International Monetary Fund programme, which is used by the international community as an indicator of sound economic and financial management, remains a serious concern.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and the HMG UK and Afghanistan website (http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/).

Written Ministerial Statement

Wednesday 4 May 2011

TREASURY

Terrorist Asset-Freezing Regime (17 December 2010 to 31 March 2011)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government are committed to reporting quarterly on the operation of the UK's terrorist asset-freezing regime. We believe this is essential to ensure transparency and accountability of the regime. The Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 (the Act) has enshrined in law the commitment to report quarterly to Parliament on the operation of the UK's asset-freezing regime mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

This is the first report under the 2010 Act and it covers the period from when the Act came into force on 17 December 2010 to 31 March 2011[1]. This report also covers the operation of the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

As of 31 March 2011, a total of just under £230,000[2] of funds relating to terrorism were frozen in the UK. This covers funds frozen under the UK's domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373, and also funds frozen under the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1267.

(1) UK's domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010

As of 31 March 2011, a total of 85 accounts containing just over £120,000 were frozen in the UK under the domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime.

Operation of the Terrorist Asset Freezing etc. Act 2010

Asset-freezing designations

In the period 17 December 2010 to 31 March 2011, the Treasury made one new designation under the Act. The final designation was made in respect of the military wing of Hezbollah, including the External Security Organisation (ESO). This replaced a designation of the ESO only, extending the freeze to the entire military wing of Hezbollah.

Reviews under the 2010 Act

The Act contains a transitional provision that ensured that all designations made under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 which were in force at the time the Act came into force remained valid as final designations under the Act until 17 March 2011, whereupon they would lapse if not already renewed. All 57 UK domestic asset freezes were therefore reviewed during the quarter to see whether they should be renewed as final designations under the Act.

The review process was completed by 17 March 2011 and as a result of these 57 reviews:

37 persons[3] had their final designations renewed;

Three persons ceased to be designated and the asset freezes in respect of them were lifted;

A further 16 persons and entities ceased to be designated under the Act but remain subject to asset freezes under EU or UN asset-freezing regimes; and

The designation of the Hezbollah External Security Organisation was revoked and replaced with a new final designation of the military wing of Hezbollah, which includes the ESO.

Licensing

Maintaining a fair and effective licensing system is crucial to ensuring the overall proportionality of the asset-freezing regime, whether the individuals concerned are subject to an asset freeze in accordance with a UN or EU listing, or domestic designation. A licensing framework is put in place for each person in the UK on a case-by-case basis. The key objective of the licensing system is to strike an appropriate balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and implementing asset freezes in a proportionate way. Licences contain appropriate controls to protect against the risk of the diversion of funds for terrorist finance.

A total of 12 licences were issued this quarter under the Act in relation to four persons subject to an asset freeze. Of these, two were new licences, whereas the other 10 were existing licences which were reissued under the Act so as to reference the current legislation rather than the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009, under the authority of which they were originally issued.

In addition to issuing licences relating to a specific person, the Treasury may also issue general licences, which apply to all persons designated under a particular regime or regimes. Licences are granted where there is a legitimate need for such transactions to proceed and where they can proceed without giving rise to any risk of terrorist finance.

Six general licences that had been issued under the 2009 order were reissued this quarter under the Act:

Prisoners' funds—permitting the payment of funds to prison governors to be held and/or applied for the benefit of a designated person;

Provision of insurance to designated persons;

Legal Aid—licensing of payments of aid to designated persons' lawyers;

Provision of emergency goods and services under insurance policies;*

Payment of designated persons' legal expenses by third parties.

*During this quarter, this general licence was subsequently revoked and reissued with amendments.

Legal Challenges

Two legal challenges against designations made under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 were ongoing in the quarter under review.

(2) UN al-Qaeda and Taliban Asset-Freezing Regime

The UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime, established under UNSCR 1267, is implemented in the UK by Council Regulation (EC) No. 881/2002. Enforcement measures are provided for in the UK's al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010.

As of 31 March 2011, a total of 83 accounts containing just under £110,000[4] were frozen in the UK under the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

Designations

During this quarter, the EU added three people to the list in Annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002.

Six people were de-listed during the quarter, three of whom had UK connections.

Licences

No individual licences were issued, varied or revoked in this quarter in relation to persons subject to an asset freeze under the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

The general licences referred to above also apply to the UNSCR 1267 regime, with the exception of the general licence for insurance, the provision of which is not prohibited under the UNSCR 1267 regime.

(3) Proceedings

In the quarter to 31 March 2011, no proceedings were initiated in respect of breaches of the prohibitions of the Act or the al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations.

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[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects the most updated account balances available and includes approximately $64,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 08/04/11.

[3] In this statement, "persons" is taken to refer to individuals and legal entities or bodies.

[4] Includes approximately $64,000 of suspected terrorist funds in the UK.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 5 May 2011

DEFENCE

Written Parliamentary Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I regret to inform the House that, unfortunately, an error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood (Maria Eagle), *Official Report*, 26 April 2011, columns 71-72W. I apologise for the error, which was not identified at the time.

The full answer given was as follows:

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by (a) ministerial car, (b) train, (c) bus, (d) commercial aircraft and (e) private aircraft since May 2010. [50223]

Mr Robathan: In order to keep costs as low as possible our Department uses an electronic booking system together with Hogg Robinson Group that search for and provide the cheapest and competitive prices available through their travel search engines.

Our data currently only extend to January 2011 and are provided in the following table:

Form of transport	*Amount spent from May 2010 to January 2011 (£)*
Car	29,935.59
Rail	3,043.53
Bus	0
Commercial aircraft	84,133.49
Private aircraft	0

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Robathan: In order to keep costs as low as possible, the Ministry of Defence uses an electronic booking system in conjunction with Hogg Robinson Group that provides the cheapest and most competitive prices available through their travel search engines.

The following table contains some ministerial travel undertaken by the previous Government; it also includes air travel related to operational visits. The available data are for six Ministers and extend only to January 2011.

Form of transport	*Amount spent from May 2010 to January 2011 (£)*
Car	29,642.37
Rail	2,025.85
Bus	Nil
Commercial aircraft	42,649.54
Private aircraft	Nil

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Libya

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): On 4 May I ordered the expulsion of two diplomats from the Libyan embassy in London on the basis that their activities were contrary to the interests of the UK. They and their dependants now have until 11 May to leave the country. We keep the status of the Libyan embassy and its staff under constant review. I judged that the behaviour of these individuals had become unacceptable, and that they should therefore be declared persona non grata.

Public Records: Colonial Documents

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): As a result of searches in connection with a legal case brought by Kenyan Mau Mau veterans, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in January became aware of the significance of a large collection of files sent to the United Kingdom from various former British territories generally at the time of their independence.

I commissioned an internal review to establish why the files had not already been dealt with in accordance with the Public Records Act 1958. That review was undertaken by the former British High Commissioner to Canada, Mr Anthony Cary. I have today deposited in the Libraries of both Houses the findings of that investigation. The report is critical of past management practices but pays tribute to the professionalism and commitment of current FCO staff, who have done much to bring the material to light. I fully endorse that tribute. The report makes a number of recommendations regarding information management at the FCO and I am committed to ensuring their full implementation.

I believe that it is the right thing to do for the information in these files now to be properly examined and recorded and made available to the public through the National Archives. This will be taken forward rapidly. Given the size of the archive the process may take some time to complete in full. It will be overseen by a senior and independent figure I shall appoint. I will inform the House further once details of the appointment and terms of reference are decided. It is my intention to release every part of every paper of interest subject only to legal exemptions.

Foreign Office officials have briefed the Governments of those former British territories who may have an interest.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 9 May 2011

EDUCATION

School Teachers Review Body's 20th Report

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): The 20th report of the School Teachers Review Body (STRB) is being published today, making recommendations on the matters referred to it in October 2010. These were whether there should be a limit on the value of discretions that can be applied to head teachers' pay and on a pay uplift for those unqualified teachers who earn £21,000 or less. I am grateful for the careful consideration which the STRB has given to these matters. Copies of the STRB's 20th report are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office and the Libraries of both Houses, and online at

http://www.education.gov.uk and http://www.ome.uk.com/.

The STRB has made recommendations concerning limits on the discretions that can be applied to head teachers' pay; and processes to ensure a focus on effective governance and rigorous justification for rates of pay which reflect the nature and degree of challenge required for a head teacher's post.

I am grateful to the STRB for these recommendations which, subject to consultees' views, I intend to accept.

The STRB has recommended that a non-consolidated payment of £250 should be made to those unqualified teachers who earn £21,000 or less; that the £250 is pro-rated for part-time unqualified teachers; and that consultation should seek to identify a simple and cost-effective method of payment.

As indicated in my statement of 21 March 2011, subject to consultees' views, I intend to accept these recommendations.

My detailed response contains further information on these issues.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

"Climate Resilient Infrastructure: Preparing for a Changing Climate"

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): This morning I will launch "Climate Resilient Infrastructure: Preparing for a Changing Climate". This outlines the Government's vision for an infrastructure network that is prepared for the future changing climate to help protect the economy and its future growth. The document encourages a much stronger focus on adapting infrastructure to the impacts of climate change as part of a green economy.

Publishing this document fulfils a commitment made last year, when the Government launched the country's first ever national infrastructure plan, to publish a document focusing on adapting infrastructure in the energy, ICT, transport and water sectors.

The document makes it clear that climate change will have significant implications for infrastructure in particular from more unpredictable extreme weather. Higher temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events ranging from drought to freezing winters, mean it is necessary to look now at how to prepare new and existing infrastructure for the impacts of climate change.

This approach will help minimise risks of disruption to infrastructure and higher economic costs to business and the country from climate change. That is why my Department's business plan has a priority to

> "Support a strong and sustainable green economy, resilient to climate change";

adapting infrastructure to the impacts of climate change is a key part of delivering on this priority.

Hundreds of experts in infrastructure and engineering have been engaged throughout this work to provide a thorough analysis of the challenges and potential solutions to increasing the climate resilience of infrastructure. "Climate Resilient Infrastructure" makes the case for action, identifying who needs to act, the challenges they may face, the opportunities available and how Government can assist.

The infrastructure we rely on to keep the country running is already vulnerable to severe weather; this risk will only increase if we are not proactive and adapt to climate change. The document I am launching today emphasises the importance of early action now to minimise this risk. Importantly, it also sets out the economic opportunities climate change could present to our leading infrastructure and engineering companies.

The document covers UK Government policy in England and in the UK for reserved matters. The House will be updated on progress made in implementing the actions in the document when the Government publishes its first adaptation programme, required by the Climate Change Act in response to the climate change risk assessment due in January 2012.

I have arranged for copies of "Climate Resilient Infrastructure: Preparing for a Changing Climate" to be placed in the Vote Office. The document is also available on DEFRA's website at www.defra.gov.uk.

HEALTH

Written Ministerial Statement (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): I regret there was an error in my written statement issued on 4 March, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS.

The cost of a full bespoke human hair wig was given as £239.65. The correct cost is £239.45.

HOME DEPARTMENT

7/7 Inquest

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The coroner's verdicts into the deaths of those who were tragically killed on 7 July 2005 was handed down on 6 May.

Lady Justice Hallett's inquests have been more wide ranging than any previous reports on the attacks, considering both whether the attacks were preventable, and the emergency service response to the attacks. We now have a comprehensive picture of what happened in the lead-up to that terrible day and on the day itself. I hope that the detailed, open and transparent inquests will have brought some measure of comfort to the families and to all of those affected by the events of 7 July 2005.

Lady Justice Hallett has found that the deaths of the 52 victims of this atrocity could not have been prevented. In her concluding remarks she said that

> "the evidence I have heard does not justify the conclusion that any failings on the part of any organisation or individual caused or contributed to any of the deaths."

The coroner has issued a report under rule 43 of the coroner's rules 1984 with recommendations directed to me, the director general of the Security Service, the Secretary of State for Health, Transport for London, the London resilience team, the London Ambulance Service and the Barts and London NHS Trust. The report makes nine recommendations. The Government and the relevant agencies will now examine the coroner's report and recommendations in depth and respond as quickly as possible and within the 56-day period set by the coroner's rules. I will, of course, inform the House of the Government's response once it has been provided to Lady Justice Hallett.

The Government, emergency responders and the security and intelligence community are constantly seeking to learn lessons and to improve the response to the terrorist threat we face. This includes learning from the 7 July attacks and from other incidents and there have been a considerable number of improvements made since 2005. The UK's counter-terrorism strategy has continued to develop in response to the evolving terrorist threat and we intend to publish a revised version of that strategy before the summer.

Our police and intelligence agencies work day in, day out, to keep our country safe but, despite their efforts, it will never be possible to stop every single terrorist attack. It is important that we remain vigilant against the threat of terrorism.

JUSTICE

Judicial Diversity Taskforce (Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, Lord McNally, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> The report of the advisory panel on judicial diversity, chaired by Baroness Neuberger, was published in February 2010. It contained 53 recommendations, one of which was that a judicial diversity taskforce, comprising the Ministry of Justice, senior members of the judiciary, the Judicial Appointments Commission, the Bar Council, the Law Society and Institute of Legal Executives, be constituted to oversee implementation of the recommendations.
>
> Once established, the taskforce met for the first time in March 2010, and accepted the recommendations of the advisory panel and committed to their implementation, subject to consideration of the financial and resourcing implications.
>
> One year on from the inaugural meeting, the taskforce met to discuss progress. I have deposited in the Libraries of both Houses copies of the first annual report. "Improving Judicial Diversity Report May 2011", from the judicial diversity taskforce, which details progress achieved to date.
>
> The report indicates that progress has and is being made in respect of all of the recommendations. However, we must not be complacent; there is a need for a much greater sense of urgency and commitment if we are to achieve meaningful improvements in the diversity of the judiciary and legal professions.
>
> The statistics contained within the report, show that there is a significant way to go, which can only be achieved through concerted action by all involved, the Executive, the judiciary, the JAC and the legal professions to ensure that a person's gender, race, religion, disability or sexuality is not a barrier to becoming a judge.
>
> The judiciary can only become more diverse if those who are eligible to apply are equally diverse. It is therefore just as important to ensure that the legal professions themselves maintain the pool of diverse talented individuals, that they address the issue of retention within the professions and also undertake proactive initiatives to publicise the positive benefits that can be achieved through a judicial career.
>
> The role of the taskforce will therefore be to provide a firm hand upon the tiller. Our common aim must be to remove the barriers, whether real or perceived, so that we attain our goal of improving the diversity of the judiciary by 2020.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry Report

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I am pleased to inform the House that the report of the Rosemary Nelson inquiry, chaired by Sir Michael Morland, will be published on Monday 23 May 2011.

In my written statement to this House on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 61WS, I confirmed that the process to check the report in order to meet the obligations on me in relation to article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights and national security had been completed, and that the report could be published in full. I have advised Sir Michael Morland of this. Monday 23 May is the earliest date on which the report can be published given the recent Assembly Elections in Northern Ireland and the need to make the relevant arrangements for publication.

I will make a statement to this House at the time the report is published. With the permission of the Speaker, I confirm that I will allow an opportunity for members of the family of Rosemary Nelson, as well as the other represented parties at the inquiry, to see the report privately and be briefed by their lawyers on its contents, some hours before the report is published. Some Members of this House will similarly have an opportunity to see the report in advance of publication, to enable them to respond to the statement made to this House at the time of publication.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 10 May 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

UK Trade and Investment (New Strategy)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): My noble Friend, the Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Lord Green, has made the following statement:

> I would like to inform the House of a new strategy for UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the lead UK Government body for export and inward investment promotion. The new strategy sets out the context for the Government's approach for trade and investment, including through the recent trade and investment White Paper and growth review. It identifies pathways to balanced growth through trade and investment. It announces the new focus for our trade and investment promotion efforts. Finally, it explains new ways of working for UKTI. It will run from now to 2015. Alongside it a BIS Economics paper is to be published. "Trade and Investment: the Economic Rationale for Government Support". Copies of the new UKTI strategy have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

ECOFIN: 17 May 2011

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 17 May 2011. The following items are on the agenda:

Regulation on short selling and certain aspects of credit default swaps

Following further work, ECOFIN will be asked to agree a general approach on the short selling regulation. The regulation intends to harmonise both short selling requirements across the EU and the powers that regulators may use in exceptional situations where there is a serious threat to financial stability or market confidence. The Government believe that proposals should not impact market efficiency and liquidity, in particular in relation to sovereign debt.

Draft general budget for 2012

The Commission will present its draft budget for 2012. The Government believe that, in proposing a 4.9% increase in payments, the draft budget for 2012 is unacceptable. In line with the agreement made between the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland in December 2010, the Government's opinion is that growth in the EU's annual budget must be curbed, in order to reflect difficult economic conditions and tough measures taken by national Governments to cut spending. The Government intend to work with other member states to achieve the best possible deal for the taxpayer.

Savings taxation directive

The savings directive forms part of the EU's "good governance in taxation" agenda, which complements G20 efforts to improve international tax co-operation and reflects the latest OECD standards on tax transparency. The Council may hold an orientation debate on amendments to the directive, which seek automatic exchange of tax information with the aim of combating cross-border tax fraud. The UK fully supports the aims of the amending directive, and hopes that the EU can move towards an agreement.

Financial sector taxation

The Commission will present an interim report to the Council on financial sector taxation. The Government are content with the report, which stresses the need to look at financial sector taxation in the round, notes the importance of establishing the purpose of any financial sector tax, and sets out next steps.

Commodity markets

Following discussion by Ministers at the informal ECOFIN in April, the Council will agree conclusions on commodity markets. The Government support the conclusions, which aim to: improve the efficiency and transparency of global commodity markets; improve supply responsiveness and productivity, especially in respect of the agricultural sector; and mitigate demand for commodities, in particular reducing the energy-intensity of future growth.

Financial support to Portugal

Following the request by the Portuguese authorities for financial assistance and subsequent discussion at the informal ECOFIN in April, ECOFIN is expected to adopt a Council recommendation to Portugal with a view to bringing an end to the situation of an excessive Government deficit and a Council decision on granting Union financial assistance to Portugal.

Review of the economic adjustment programme for Ireland

The Commission will present the outcome of the first and second quarterly reviews of Ireland's programme by the IMF, Commission and ECB in April, and its assessment on whether to release the second tranche of funds. The Government expect the assessment to be broadly positive. The first tranche of the UK bilateral loan is available to Ireland following the programme's third review, which is expected to take place in September 2011.

Financing climate change, preparation of UN meetings

In preparation for discussions by the United Nations, ECOFIN will be asked to endorse the EU report on "Fast Start" climate finance, and to approve Council conclusions on issues and next steps for international climate finance. The fast start report sets out details of the €2.34 billion of fast-start finance provided by the EU in 2010, and details of specific actions supported by this finance. The UK welcomes the report and hopes that any conclusions build substantively on previous Council conclusions, as well as demonstrating our commitment to delivering our long-term climate finance target.

Information on the informal ECOFIN meeting

The presidency will give a debrief of the April informal ECOFIN.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building and the Environment

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Today the Government are publishing a further group of reports presenting the findings from research projects commissioned by the previous Administration. There is a significant backlog of unpublished reports that were produced by the previous Government and over the next few months we will be publishing further reports in groups themed on particular topics.

The reports and findings are of general policy interest, especially on the issues of building and the environment, but they do not explicitly relate to forthcoming policy announcements and are not necessarily a reflection or statement of the current Government's policy positions. We are publishing these documents in the interests of transparency and as part of our freedom of information commitment to publish the results of all commissioned research. For transparency, all completed work is being published regardless of format or robustness.

The six reports published today represent the findings from research projects at a total cost of £697,819. These findings cover the topics of building and the environment.

Domestic sector airtightness—This report by the Centre for Built Environment assesses the impact on airtightness of different methods of construction and the implications for future building regulations policy. The work found that certain construction types are intrinsically more airtight than others, and that dry-lined masonry cavity and steel-framed construction require much greater attention to detail if they are to reliably achieve high levels of airtightness. The complexity of design can have a significant impact, and certain approaches are likely to be more robust than others. This report was commissioned in 2003 at a cost of £233,325.

Condensation risk—impact of improvements to Part L and robust details on Part C—This report by Faber Maunsell evaluates the impact of higher insulation and airtightness levels on moisture performance and interstitial and surface condensation risks. It highlights how hygrothermally robust detailing and appropriate workmanship is critical to the achievement of energy efficient, healthy and comfortable buildings; and how possible degradation of building materials and the deterioration of thermal performance as a consequence of the calculated maximum amount of moisture should be considered. The report was commissioned in 2003 at a cost of £158,560.

Evaluation of unventilated pitched roofs with vapour permeable membrane—This report by Faber Maunsell identifies an ideal calculation approach to predicting condensation risk in unventilated roof systems might be via a whole building simulation package. It also identifies why the performance of roof underlays should not be considered in isolation from the whole roof system including moisture vapour movement from the interior through the ceiling. The report was commissioned in 2003 at a cost of £113,103.

Product emission labelling scheme—scoping study—The report by AECOM investigates the potential for introducing a scheme to label building products for their emissions of volatile organic compounds. It describes existing schemes, identities relevant British, European, international and American standards, and outlines research into the health effects of volatile organic compounds. The report was commissioned in 2005 at a cost of £45,972.

Comparing PStar and co-heating test results—This report by AECOM compares the "PStar" method for determining heat losses from a dwelling with the more established "co-heating" method. The study showed that PStar tests take three days to complete and have the potential to be used for compliance purposes, but the results they produce are different from co-heating test results, and further investigations are needed. The report was commissioned in 2008 at a cost of £29,000.

Reducing water consumption in buildings—This report prepared by WRc (as part of a CIRIA-led consortium) addresses issues connected with reducing water consumption in buildings. The report recommendations were used to inform a comprehensive review of Approved Document G to the Building Regulations. The report was commissioned in 2008 at a cost of £117,859.

At a time when public budgets must be reduced, the new Government want to ensure their research delivers best possible value-for-money for the taxpayer and that sums expended are reasonable in relation to the public policy benefits obtained. My Department has put in place new scrutiny and challenge processes for future research. Any new projects will be scrutinised to ensure the methodology is sound and that all options for funding are explored at an early stage. This includes using existing work from other organisations, joint funding projects with other Departments or organisations and taking work forward in-house.

The reports and findings are of general policy interest, especially on the issues of building and the environment, but they do not explicitly relate to forthcoming policy announcements and are not necessarily a reflection or statement of the current Government's policy positions. DCEG is publishing these reports in the interests of transparency.

Copies of these reports are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

EDUCATION

Munro Review of Child Protection

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): Few things are more important than helping and protecting vulnerable children and young people. I am reminded daily of the immense dedication of professionals and their unstinting efforts to keep children and young people safe. Despite this, the system is not working as well as it should. That is why, in June last year, the Secretary of State for Education, asked Professor Eileen Munro to conduct a wide-ranging independent review to improve child protection.

Professor Munro was asked to set out the obstacles preventing improvements and the steps required to improve child protection, including giving consideration to how effectively children's social workers and professionals in other agencies work together. I am pleased to announce that today, following her first two reports, Professor Munro has published the final report of her review, "A child-centred system". Copies have been laid before the House.

Professor Munro has carried out a wide-ranging and in-depth review. Her report makes 15 recommendations and signals a shift from previous reforms that, while well intentioned, resulted in a tick-box culture and a loss of focus on the needs of the child.

I welcome Professor Munro's thorough analysis of the issues. It is important that we consider carefully, with professionals themselves, how best to respond to her proposals to bring about the long-term reform needed.

I am therefore establishing an implementation working group drawing together key individuals from the social work profession, local government, health, police, education and the voluntary sector. The Government will work closely with this group, whose membership I will announce shortly, to develop a full response to Professor Munro's recommendations before the summer recess.

I am very grateful to Professor Munro for all the hard work, professionalism and expertise she has shown in delivering this review and to the many professionals and members of the public, including children and young people themselves, who have contributed to it.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Post Informal Energy Council Meeting

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I represented the United Kingdom at the EU Informal Energy Council in Hungary on 2-3 May 2011.

Discussions at the Council focused on the 2050 Energy Roadmap. Commissioner Oettinger emphasised the importance of a road map as providing a framework for the EU's transition to a low-carbon economy with virtually decarbonised electricity generation and noted the importance of considering intermediate milestones, for example for 2030. Discussion by Ministers of priorities for the road map touched on renewables deployment, infrastructure, low-carbon development, the importance of giving the right investment signals and the need for scenarios to be underpinned with robust analysis, including of costs. I noted that a focus on both low-carbon development and energy security was essential as was consideration of the full range of fuel mixes. The discussion at the Council will feed into the communication that the Commission is preparing and planning to issue in the autumn.

Over lunch, there was a discussion of external European energy relations, which will feed into a communication that the Commission plans to publish after the summer on energy security and international co-operation. This will be one of the priorities for the Polish presidency.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): My noble friend Lord Hamilton of Epsom (Archie Hamilton) has replaced my noble friend Lord Bates (Michael Bates) as a member of the United Kingdom delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

JUSTICE

Court Funds Office Modernisation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am pleased to announce today that the Court Funds Office (CFO) will be working in partnership with National Savings and Investments (NS&I) to modernise the service it provides to clients.

Under the Administration of Justice Act 1982, the CFO, acting on behalf of the Accountant General of the Senior Courts, provides a banking and administration service for some 140,000 clients with a total of £3.3 billion cash and £0.2 billion securities held under the control of the civil courts in England and Wales, including the Court of Protection (CoP). It also acts as custodian for any investments made with that money.

The money held by CFO originates from three main sources:

> Damages awarded to children as a result of civil legal action in a county court in England or Wales or the High Court of Justice. These assets are held on their behalf until the child reaches majority (18 years of age);
>
> Assets belonging to people who lack the capacity to manage their own financial affairs where the CoP has appointed someone else to manage their affairs;
>
> Cases where money is held in court pending settlement of civil court action, or on behalf of dissenting shareholders, widows and other clients whose funds are held under a variety of different statutes.

Working with NS&I will allow CFO to take advantage of the business transformation and service management skills, technology, and processes that are already well established within NS&I. It will provide customers with a more effective and efficient service and therefore an improved customer experience.

Clients will interact with CFO in the same way as they do now and their accounts will be administered in line with existing legislation. They will also continue to use specific CFO investment products but will not have access, under this arrangement, to NS&I products. The Accountant General will retain all of their current responsibilities and be ultimately responsible for the safeguarding of funds in court.

Judicial Appointments

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am today announcing that the criteria for appointing judges who, on appointment, will be authorised to chair restricted patients cases in the mental health jurisdiction in the health, education and social care chamber of the first-tier tribunal will be amended to better reflect the needs of the jurisdiction.

Restricted patients cases involve individuals who are detained in hospital by virtue of a restriction order imposed by the Crown court, or by virtue of being transferred from prison by direction of the Secretary of

State. The convention has been that retired circuit judges or recorder QC judges who chair the cases must refrain from chairing cases once five years post retirement has passed. The convention was designed to provide assurance that an experienced member of the judiciary would be involved in decisions on whether to direct the discharge of a patient and the concept of experience was predicated entirely on current experience of criminal sentencing.

The existing criteria no longer provide the most appropriate basis for determining competency for hearing restricted patient cases. While experience of criminal sentencing remains central, I recognise that restricting eligibility to recorder silks for appointment to the tribunal for the purpose of chairing restricted patient cases excludes non-silk recorders with heavyweight crime experience or substantial relevant experience in such areas as restricted patients cases or the Parole Board. I also recognise that requiring retired circuit judges or recorders to refrain from sitting after five years on the panel, in the absence of other factors to suggest they are not suitable, removes individuals with significant and continuing experience of working in this specialist jurisdiction. Deployment of available judges is a matter for the senior president of tribunals.

The changes will increase the pool from which potential chairing judges are drawn, and will retain the services of experienced judges.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft Cabin Air Quality

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): Cranfield university are today publishing their research into aircraft cabin air sampling on commercial aircraft in scheduled operation. A link to the report is being provided on the Department for Transport website.

The consideration of this matter by the Committee on Toxicity (COT) in 2007 provided an important opportunity to examine this issue in depth. Further scrutiny was provided by the investigation carried out by the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee.

The Department commissioned this independent research in 2008 (once tests had been completed to find suitable scientific equipment for the task) as a result of a recommendation by the COT—the first time such a study had been carried out by any country in the world.

The main conclusion of Cranfleld's research was that there was no evidence of pollutants occurring in cabin air at levels exceeding available health and safety standards and guidelines. Levels observed in the flights that formed part of the study were comparable to those typically experienced in domestic settings.

The study monitored a total of 100 flights in five different aircraft types: Boeing 757, Airbus 319, 320 and 321 and the BAe 146. A series of air samples were taken at defined points on all flights, with additional samples taken during any "fume events" if any occurred. All flight crew, cabin crew and researchers were requested to complete a post-flight questionnaire, including questions about any fumes or smells that occurred during the flight.

The study's objective was to analyse cabin air for volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, particles and carbon monoxide in normal operations during all phases of flight (e.g. climb, cruise, descent); and to detect and characterise any anomalous elevations of these elements during any "fume events" where unusual smells or similar occurrences were reported.

The European standard "Aircraft internal air quality standards, criteria and determination methods" sets safety, health and comfort limits for a number of substances, including two that were measured in the study—carbon monoxide and toluene. The study's results indicate that concentrations of both carbon monoxide and toluene remained within these limits. In the absence of specific cabin air standards for the other pollutants measured in the research, the study referred to other standards and guidelines established, for example, for domestic (home) or occupational environments. Again, none of these standards or guidelines was exceeded.

I am grateful to Cranfield university for their rigorous and painstaking work. I am also grateful to the participating airlines which made their flight staff and management time and their aircraft available to the project. Without this invaluable practical help, the research would not have been possible.

The Department will always take the health of persons on board aircraft very seriously and I hope the publication of this thorough and independent analysis by Cranfield university will provide reassurance on this issue. We will continue to keep in close touch on all aviation health matters with the UK's aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority.

The Department will now take forward the one remaining cabin air study outstanding—the swab test research being conducted by the Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh.

When that has been finished all the completed research projects will be submitted to the Committee on Toxicity for their consideration so that the public can be assured that this matter has been thoroughly investigated.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 11 May 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Restructuring Moratorium (Consultation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I am setting out today the stakeholder responses to our consultation on proposals for a restructuring moratorium.

When launching the consultation, the Government were focused on setting a path to balanced and sustainable economic growth across the economy, with increasing jobs and prosperity. This included looking at the challenges and risks faced by business in the refinancing and restructuring of existing debts.

The consultation document invited views on a restructuring moratorium which would enable viable businesses, with a realistic prospect of implementing a successful restructuring of their financial affairs, to obtain a flexible breathing space outside of a formal insolvency procedure during which the restructuring could be negotiated and implemented.

Forty-two businesses, individuals, and representative bodies responded to the consultation. Responses received suggest that, while the refinancing and restructuring of company debt remains a valid concern, the urgency of the case for introducing such a moratorium is not as great as previously thought. Those working on large restructurings tell us that they have been able to use existing mechanisms to get around some of the problems that the moratorium is designed to address.

There have been suggestions that a greater impact might be achieved by the restructuring moratorium were it also to tackle issues such as termination clauses (whereby suppliers can cancel essential contracts and threaten the viability of company's rescue plans) and "cram down" mechanisms (to reduce the power of small creditors to block proposals). These are significant and difficult issues. It would be helpful to have further discussions with the main stakeholder groups to explore how much support there might be for addressing these issues; the best way in which to do so and the implications of introducing such further measures.

The Government have therefore decided that the next step should be to publish the responses to the consultation that they received to allow all concerned to understand the various views expressed. My officials will then work with stakeholders both to refine the moratorium proposals and to consider in more detail the additional areas that have been raised.

Copies of the non-confidential responses to the consultation are being published today on the Insolvency Service website (www.insolvency.gov.uk), together with a summary of those responses.

Employment Laws Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): Today the Government have announced the next steps in our comprehensive review of employment laws.

The Parliament-long review is to ensure that our employment laws maximise flexibility for both employers and employees without compromising fairness and providing the necessary framework for a competitive business environment and economic growth.

We are today publishing the areas of employment law which we will be among our medium-term priorities for the review. We will consider in detail the case for reform in these areas to ensure they are fit for purpose:

> the compensation for discrimination awarded by employment tribunals;
>
> the rules on collective redundancy;
>
> the TUPE regulations.

In addition, the review will consider other suitable ideas that come out of the Red Tape Challenge website and through discussions with interested parties.

HEALTH

Addiction to Medicine

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): I am pleased to inform the House that two reports on addiction to prescription and over-the-counter medicines are being published today. Recognising that there was a lack of information on this subject, the Department of Health commissioned two reports in 2009-10:

> The National Addiction Centre was asked to conduct a literature review to bring together the published evidence on the scale of the problem and how best to respond to dependence on medicines; and
>
> The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse was asked to contact primary care trusts and treatment providers to investigate prescribing patterns and the help that is currently offered to people who develop problems.

These two reports will play a role in informing the future development of policy and services. In the Government's drug strategy, which we launched in December, we set out an ambition to tackle dependence on all drugs, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines We need to do all we can to prevent people becoming dependent in the first place and to offer people appropriate support to recover when it does occur.

I will be leading work to involve relevant organisations and interested individuals to discuss the future action that is necessary in the light of the information contained in the reports. I look forward to discussions with Members of both Houses who have shown a long interest in this important area.

I am placing the reports in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Extraordinary Council will focus on interior issues and is due to be held on 12 May in Brussels. I will represent the United Kingdom. As the agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council will start with an EU ministerial breakfast with the Director of SitCen where discussions will focus on the aftermath of the death of bin Laden and the situation in north Africa.

Next the Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen states), will hold a state of play discussion on the Frontex regulation. The regulation builds on an evaluation of the first five years of Frontex's performance and is intended to extend the remit of Frontex into areas that will allow it to be more operationally effective going forward. The Council has previously called for a first reading agreement of this measure before the end of June. The UK is not a participant in the Frontex regulation but we are satisfied that the current draft is moving in the right direction. The proposal to give Frontex a limited remit to handle personal information will enable closer working with Europol to counter criminality, such as human trafficking and smuggling, at the EU's external borders.

Next under Mixed Committee and as the first item in the main Council there will be a discussion on the southern neighbourhood region, in the light of the Commission communication on north African migration issued on 4 May. The presidency will ask member states how far they agree with proposals in the communication, in preparation for further discussion at the June European Council. The UK welcomes the proposals in the communication for developing effective co-operation on migration issues with north African countries, especially on returns and border security. We are ready to work with the Commission and other member states to build capacity in those countries by deploying UK experts. We would also like the EU to support more voluntary repatriation of third-country nationals from north Africa back to their countries of origin in sub-Saharan Africa. We stand ready to support member states facing particular pressures, but remain opposed to any large-scale or systematic relocation of migrants within the EU. The Council is also likely to discuss proposals for reforms in Schengen governance, including the system for mutual evaluation and rules for temporary reintroduction of border controls. The UK does not take part in Schengen provisions on border controls, but is supportive of any reforms that combat illegal immigration and strengthen the EU's external borders.

Cyprus will also give a presentation on the ministerial meeting which took place in Nicosia on the 19 April 2011.

The Commission will present its evaluation of EU re-admission agreements and the Council will have an initial exchange of views on the evaluation. The UK welcomes the Commission evaluation and supports a number of recommendations made in it. The intention is to reach member state agreement on Council conclusions on the recommendations at the June JHA Council.

There will be a lunchtime discussion on asylum, focusing on the Commission's communication on north African migration. The communication calls for negotiations for a common European asylum system to be completed by the 2012 deadline. The communication also emphasises the Commission's intention to revise some of its more controversial proposals on asylum, and argues that an "emergency clause" be introduced allowing transfers under the Dublin regulation to be suspended in certain circumstances. The Government support practical co-operation on asylum in the EU but do not believe that participation in a common asylum policy is right for Britain. We oppose the suspension of transfers under the Dublin regulation.

The Council will receive an update on the situation on Japan at the request of Belgium.

Finally, the Commission will present their evaluation report on the Data Retention Directive. The evaluation recognises the value of communications data in maintaining security in the EU and the central role that it plays in the fight against serious crime but also signals that changes should be made to the directive which potentially include greater restrictions on the data types that are retained; greater restrictions on access to the data; and greater harmonisation including possibly shortening the periods of mandatory data retention. The UK strongly supports the existing directive as it provides a valuable basis for retaining data that are critical on an ongoing basis to counter-terrorism and serious crime investigations, both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. We welcome the fact that the evaluation report recognises the value of retained communications data to maintaining security in the EU. We recognise the importance of strong data protection but have concerns that some of the changes the Commission are considering would have an adverse impact on UK operational capabilities. We believe that the Data Retention Directive in its current format has sufficient flexibility to allow member states to transpose the directive in a way that is compatible with both their own data protection requirements and those of the European Union.

JUSTICE

Prison Service Pay Review Body

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am pleased to announce that the Prime Minister has appointed Dr Peter Knight as Chair of the Prison Service Pay Review Body for three years commencing March 2011, and that I have appointed Vilma Patterson and Trevor Spires as members of the Prison Service Pay Review Body, also for three years, commencing March 2011. The appointments have been conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice on appointments to public bodies.

TRANSPORT

Road Safety

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): Today I am launching a new strategic framework for road safety. This outlines the Government's plans to reduce deaths and injuries on Britain's roads as well as the measures and steps that others can take. It is available for download from the Department for Transport website; www.dft.gov.uk/roadsafety.

The strategic framework aims to provide clarity to local authorities, road safety professionals and other stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities in improving road safety and the increased freedom that is being given to local authorities in assessing and acting on their own priorities.

In line with the coalition's commitment to localism, we want decisions to be made locally, wherever possible, and this document sets out how we are moving away from overarching national road safety targets and towards a more sophisticated method of monitoring progress through a road safety outcomes framework which will help local authorities assess and prioritise their action and show the impact of central Government measures.

Additionally, at the local level, there will be an increase in the road safety information that is available to the public to help them hold their local authorities and service providers to account.

Of course, there is still an important role for national Government in delivering safer roads. Our central focus will be on supporting road users who have weak driving skills or who display a lapse of judgment to improve their driving, while focusing enforcement resources against those who deliberately decide to undertake antisocial and dangerous driving behaviour.

Where road users make low-level mistakes or display poor skills we intend to divert them in to a greater range of educational courses to help develop safer skills and attitudes. We will extend this approach to careless driving through the introduction of a new fixed penalty notice as well as new remedial educational courses. We need to rebalance road safety enforcement away from a narrow focus on camera-enforced speed policing, to address the wider range of behaviours that create risk on the roads. Where road users commit serious, deliberate and repeated offences we aim to increase the effectiveness of enforcement for this minority—for example, through improving the efficiency of action on drink and drug-driving. Through this approach we aim to improve the targeting and effectiveness of enforcement to tackle a wide range of unsafe behaviours that cover all careless and dangerous driving offences.

Our long-term vision is to ensure that Britain remains a world leader on road safety and to continue the downward trend in casualties. We believe that the measures set out in this strategic framework will help us to achieve this vision.

Full impact assessments, including the potential impacts on enforcement and the judicial system, will be prepared in the usual way when legislation is brought forward.

Copies of this document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 12 May 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): I would like to inform the House that today I have written to local enterprise partnership chairs and shadow chairs setting out the new measures that BIS is introducing today to support partnerships as they deliver their ambitions for growth. These initiatives include:

> A new £5 million start-up fund for LEPs aimed at helping those partnerships which do not have any institutional capacity to get started and get themselves on a sustainable financial footing. This funding will be available in 2011-12 only.
>
> The launch of a toolbox for LEPs, which provides information on economic development activity across Government Departments and ideas for strong LEP/ Government co-operation. This includes the contact details of the six local relationship management teams which BIS has put in place to provide the key first point for contact for LEPs on any issues they have.

More details of these initiatives can be found on the BIS website through the following address:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/leps.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Olympic Executive

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): I am publishing today the Government Olympic Executive's quarterly report—"London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report May 2011". This report explains the latest budget position as at 31 March 2011, and outlines some of the many wider economic and social benefits to the UK.

The overall public sector funding package for the games remains at £9.298 billion. As reported in the annual report in February this year, the breakdown of the funding package altered from April 2011 reflecting the changing focus of the programme from construction to the operational delivery of the games. We continue to seek value for money and cost savings in our day-to-day running of the project. Through a combination of further savings achieved in the quarter together with reducing risks, the overall anticipated final cost of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) programme has reduced by £35 million to £7.266 billion.

The ODA continues to make strong progress in preparing the venues and infrastructure in the Olympic park with 83% of the games-time construction programme now complete. The last piece of turf on the Olympic stadium's field of play was laid in March, marking the completion of construction on the flagship venue. Construction started on the Olympic stadium just under three years ago in May 2008 and has been completed on time, under budget and with an exemplary safety record. Over 240 UK businesses have won contracts for the construction of the stadium and over 5,250 people have worked on the project over the past three years.

This quarter also saw the completed 6,000-seat velodrome unveiled in February. After the games, the legacy velodrome will be used by elite athletes and the local community and will include a café, bike hire and cycle workshop facilities. The ODA will also today announce that the handball arena is complete and that the basketball arena is nearing completion.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are continuing to help businesses and people through the difficult economic times. Some 100 companies that have worked on the 2012 games have had their achievements highlighted in the first edition of "Springboard to Success" which was launched by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the ODA and LOCOG at Sport Accord. The directory showcases 400 UK companies specialising in major infrastructure and sporting project supplies who have won contracts at domestic and international sporting events including London 2012, with a view to helping them win more work in this billion dollar sector. Notable contracts awarded by LOCOG in the last quarter include an agreement with G4S Secure Solutions (UK) for recruiting, training and managing a 10,000-strong security work force for the games. The terms of this major contract provide for extensive insurance coverage to address potential liabilities, and beyond this, LOCOG has agreed to indemnify G4S for certain claims which cannot be covered by insurance. The Government have confirmed that in the event of a shortfall between LOCOG's revenues and its costs, LOCOG's indemnification obligations would be covered by the Government as ultimate guarantor of games funding.

The games will also provide a golden opportunity for the tourism industry. The Government's tourism policy, published in March, aims to help the tourism industry achieve its potential for growth through a range of measures including creating a sustainable new model for destination marketing and management, taking advantage of the series of major events which the UK is due to host over the next few years. Major companies have already pledged support to help match the £50 million of public money the Government have committed through VisitBritain. This initiative aims to generate 4 million extra overseas visitors over the next four years bringing in an extra £2 billion-worth of visitor spend and helping to create 50,000 new jobs across the country.

I would like to commend this report to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest in, and support for, the London 2012 games.

Copies of the quarterly report May 2011 are available online at www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Inquests (Service Personnel Overseas)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the latest of our quarterly statements to the House with details of the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. We wish to express the Government's deep sense of gratitude to all our service personnel who are serving, or who have served, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As always, the families of those service personnel who have lost their lives in the service of their country in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are very much in our thoughts. Our deepest condolences go to them, and in particular to the families of the 14 service personnel who have died since our last statement.

Today we are announcing the current status of inquests conducted by the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, and other coroners in England and Wales. This statement gives the position at 5 May.

I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses to supplement this statement. The tables outline the status of all cases and the date of death in each case. They include information about cases where a board of inquiry or a service inquiry has been held.

Both our Departments will continue to work closely together to improve our processes and we will continue the Government's support for coroners conducting inquests into operational deaths. We are grateful to them and their staff for their dedication. We would also like to thank once again all those people who provide support and information before, during and after the inquest process.

Since October 2007 both Departments have provided additional resources for operational inquests. These resources have been provided to the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner Mr David Ridley due to the repatriation of service personnel at RAF Lyneham and the formation of the MOD Defence Inquests Unit in 2008. These measures have been provided to ensure that there is not a backlog of operational inquests. On 16 March my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced in a written ministerial statement (*Official Report*, column 11WS) that repatriation ceremonies for those killed in operational theatres will move to RAF Brize Norton, in the Oxfordshire coroner's district, by 1 September. We will again provide additional resources to the Oxfordshire coroner Mr Nicholas Gardiner.

CURRENT STATUS OF INQUESTS

Since the last statement there have been 17 inquests into the deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A total of 453 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including 12 service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In three further cases, no formal inquest was held. In two of these cases the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

OPEN INQUESTS

Fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan

At present there are 88 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, 21 involving deaths in the last six months. The Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has retained 37 of the remaining open inquests, while 39 are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. Hearing dates have been set in 16 cases.

There is one remaining open inquest into deaths from operations in Iraq.

Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

Twelve inquests remain to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries. One hearing date has been set. The remaining 11 cases will be listed for hearing when the continuing investigations are completed.

We shall continue to inform the House of progress with the remaining inquests.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 13 May 2011

CABINET OFFICE

The State of the Estate 2010

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I have today laid before Parliament, pursuant to section 86 of the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended), "The State of the Estate in 2010". This report provides an assessment of the efficiency and sustainability of the Government's civil estate in 2010. It provides early insights into the progress Government are making since introducing the national property controls and moratorium on leaseholds. In the report I set out the future direction for using the Government estate more efficiently, including our commitment to meeting the 10% reduction in carbon emissions target. The report is published on an annual basis.

Updated Departmental Business Plans

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Mr Oliver Letwin): Today we are publishing updated departmental business plans.

The updated business plans now include actions from "The Plan for Growth" and the social mobility strategy and reflect the current assessment of when the Government will implement the commitments set out in the programme for Government. In addition, the updated business plans reflect responses to Departments' consultations on the transparency sections run in December 2010 and January 2011. We have also made some minor presentational changes, including incorporating milestones into the main section of the business plans.

Where Departments have amended text from the versions published on 8 November 2010, they have provided the reason for the change. These reasons are set out in an annex which I have placed in the Library of the House. Please note that this list does not include new actions, but details any changes to existing text or deadlines. The numbering of the list is based on the revised business plans.

The business plan for the Department for Health will be published after the NHS listening exercise.

The business plans are all available on the No.10 website at www.number10.gov.uk and can also be accessed via departmental websites. Copies have also been placed in the Library of the House. Departments will continue to publish their monthly progress updates which are also available on the No.10 website and from the Vote Office.

From July, the latest information on performance against business plan indicators will be published in a quarterly data summary for each Department.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Circuses (Wild Animals)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The protection of the welfare of performing wild animals in circuses is a matter that the Government take very seriously. Rigorous standards for the protection of animals kept by man are already set in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 but there are a few areas—including the use of wild animals in travelling circuses—where additional safeguards are necessary.

The Austrian Government have recently been taken to court for their attempt to ban wild animals in circuses. This Government want to take action as soon as possible to protect wild animals in circuses without waiting for the outcome of that judgment. For this reason we propose to introduce a strict licensing regime using powers provided under the 2006 Act.

Any circuses that perform in England that wish to have wild animals such as tigers, lions and elephants performing in them will need to demonstrate that they meet high animal welfare standards for each animal before they can be granted a licence to keep those animals.

Areas being considered as part of licensing conditions include:

> The rules for transport of the animal, including how long animals can spend being transported without rest periods;
>
> The type of quarters that must be provided for the animal, including the size of the quarters and the facilities provided, including winter quarters;
>
> The treatment of animals by trainers and keepers, including performance and the training methods that may be used.

Most circuses choose not to feature wild animals in their shows, and I believe that most people would prefer not to see them performing in circuses. But where circuses do choose to show wild animals, people expect those animals to be kept in the best possible conditions.

If circuses cannot meet these high welfare standards, they will not be allowed to use wild animals in their performances.

The Government will consult on the standards, which will be drawn up in consultation with welfare experts and other interested parties.

The licensing scheme will be enforced through inspections by Government-approved vets.

In the summer of 2009 there were 39 wild animals being used by circuses in the UK, which included elephants, tigers, lions, camels, zebras and crocodiles. There are now no longer any elephants kept in circuses in the UK.

The previous Government were similarly concerned and that is why they launched a public consultation. This consultation closed in 2010 and a summary of the responses can be found on the DEFRA website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Government Wine Cellar Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): I am announcing today the outcome of a review of the Government wine cellar. Government Hospitality provides corporate hospitality services for the whole Government, and has done so for over 80 years. It is administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. As part of its functions it includes a wine cellar. On 18 June 2010 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs instituted a thorough review of the cellar's functions to ensure that the purchase, retention and use of wines and spirits for official Government events hosted by senior members of Government was appropriate to the contemporary environment and would provide value for money for the taxpayer.

That review has now finished. It concluded that retaining a Government wine cellar remains the most cost-effective way to supply wine for Government hospitality functions and state banquets, but that substantial reform was needed.

The management of the cellar will be reformed in the following ways, ensuring that the provision of wine for Government hospitality is entirely self-financing for the lifetime of this Parliament:

> We will conduct targeted sales of high-value stock in order to pay for future purchases.
>
> There will be an annual statement to Parliament on the use of the wine cellar, covering consumption, stock purchases, costs, and value for money. I am arranging to have placed in the Library of the House such a report for the financial year 2009-2010. A report on the cellar's operations in 2010-2011 and subsequent years will be placed in the Library of the House during the month of May following the end of the appropriate financial year.
>
> The former Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine, ceased to be a non-departmental public body in October 2010. We have agreed with its members that Government Hospitality will continue to benefit from the expertise of the Committee on an ad hoc basis. I should like to record my thanks to the members of the Committee for their agreement to continue this unpaid expert advice.

I am confident that the changes set out above will enable the cellar to achieve best possible value for money for the taxpayer and greater transparency in how its resources are used.

Libya: Visit of the National Transitional Council

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The chairman of the Libyan national transitional council (NTC) in Libya, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, visited London on Thursday 12 May. Mr Abdul-Jalil met the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for International Development, the Shadow Foreign Secretary and me.

In line with our assessment of the NTC as the legitimate interlocutor in Libya representing the aspirations of the Libyan people, the Government have invited the NTC to establish an office in the UK. This will enhance our existing relationship with the NTC, and better enable us to fulfil our commitment to protect civilians under threat of attack from the Gaddafi regime. It will help us to work more closely together on sharing information and formulating our policy towards Libya. This arrangement does not affect our position on the legal status of the NTC: the British Government will continue to recognise States, not Governments. The UK will also strengthen its presence in eastern Libya when our new Permanent Head of Office in Benghazi John Jenkins arrives in the near future.

In parallel to this, the UK will be a key contributor to the deployment of a multi-national team of experts to Benghazi. With the UN still unable to deploy, this team will conduct a stabilisation assessment, and advise and assist the NTC on meeting their longer-term needs. I also intend to provide further practical and material support to the NTC in the form of further communications equipment, bullet-proof vests and uniforms for the civilian police authorities. I also intend to provide support for the NTC's fledging media and broadcasting operations.

As with all the material and advisory support we are providing to the NTC, this support is within the terms of UN Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973 on Libya. This support has been requested by the NTC and will help them ensure that they administer territory under their control to international standards and to protect the aspirations of the Libyan people.

Her Majesty's Government remain resolutely committed to implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on Libya and to supporting the Libyan people in determining their own future.

TRANSPORT

The Equality Act 2010 (Work on Ships and Hovercraft) Regulations 2011

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I have today laid before the House draft affirmative regulations which, if approved, will apply part 5 (Work) of the Equality Act 2010 to work on ships and hovercraft and to seafarers.

The regulations will ensure that, as far as possible, the level of protection afforded under part 5 of the Equality Act 2010 is extended to those working at sea. This was not done at the time that part 5 of the Act was commenced because further consideration needed to be given to the issue of seafarers' pay.

As the law currently stands, section 9 of the Race Relations Act 1976 provides that it is not unlawful for seafarers to be paid different rates of pay on the basis of their nationality if they were recruited outside Great Britain. This includes seafarers from EEA states and designated states, which are states with particular bilateral agreements with the European Union. The European Commission has been investigating a complaint that UK law does not comply with European Law and in January this year it issued a reasoned opinion on that basis. In order to meet its treaty obligations, the Government are obliged to bring UK law into line with European law.

The regulations which I have laid before the House today will, if approved, apply part 5 of the Equality Act to work on ships and hovercraft and to seafarers. The Government are already committed to the Equality Act, most of which, including part 5, was commenced on 1 October 2010. The international nature of the shipping industry requires further clarity in specifying to which seafarers, working on which vessels, operating in which waters, part 5 of the Act applies. The relevant provisions legislate in respect of employment, offering protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation in relation to certain protected characteristics, these being age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation. Section 81 of the Act contains the power to achieve this by means of an affirmative statutory instrument.

The power within section 81 is also wide enough to legislate in respect of differential pay. The regulations will, if approved, provide that it is not unlawful to offer to pay or pay different rates of pay to seafarers (applicants, employees and contract workers), other than those from EEA or designated states, if a person applies for work as a seafarer or is recruited as a seafarer outside Great Britain.

Under section 19 of the Equality Act (indirect discrimination), where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice has an effect which particularly disadvantages seafarers from EEA or designated states in terms of a difference in pay, this will nevertheless be lawful if the employer can show that the provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified. If differential pay were challenged by a seafarer from an EEA or designated state, it would be for the employer to satisfy an employment tribunal as to that justification.

The Government have consulted ship owners and the Chamber of Shipping as well as the trade unions before proceeding with this measure and have prepared an impact assessment. In preparing these regulations, we have applied the principles of our reducing regulation initiative and taken every care to ensure that the regulations meet the requirements of EU law without unwarranted elaboration, the better to safeguard the continued competitiveness of the UK fleet. We remain committed to the red ensign and to maintaining a sizeable, high-quality and highly competitive fleet under the UK flag.

In accordance with Government policy on transforming the role of regulation in our society and reducing regulation, these regulations will be reviewed every five years and the conclusions of such reviews will be published.

These regulations will apply in England, Wales and Scotland while Northern Ireland will shortly be introducing similar regulations.

Petitions

Tuesday 26 April 2011

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Privatisation of the Royal Mail

The Petition of staff and customers of Post Offices in Newcastle-upon-Tyne North constituency.

Declares that the petitioners are concerned about the proposed full privatisation of the Royal Mail and its impact upon on the number of Post Offices in Newcastle.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to reconsider the proposals contained within the Postal Services Bill to privatise the Royal Mail; to ensure the longest possible Inter-Business Agreement between Royal Mail and Post Office Limited; and to specify in law a minimum number of counter services for access to Royal Mail services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Catherine McKinnell.]*

[P000918]

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Higham Hopper Bus Service

The Humble Petition of residents of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire and surrounding areas,

Sheweth, that there is a considerable and ongoing need for the Higham Hopper bus service; that this is a vital mode of transport for the elderly and people with mobility problems; and that it is of the greatest importance that this bus service continues to provide transport for residents in Higham Ferrers and the surrounding areas.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to request that Northamptonshire county council, in conjunction with East Northamptonshire District Council and Higham Ferrers parish council, explores ways in which the Higham Hopper bus service can continue to operate.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—[*Presented by Mr Peter Bone, Official Report,* 8 March 2011; Vol. 524, c. 877.]

[P000893]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 11 April 2011:

The Government do not determine local bus services, 78% of which are provided by commercial bus operators in a market environment. Others are provided by community transport operators or procured by Local Transport Authorities as "tendered services".

The Government recognise that community transport provides invaluable services to those who are unable to access conventional public transport for whatever reason. With this in mind, the Government recently announced additional funding of £10 million to rural local authorities in England to support and kick-start community transport in their areas. Northamptonshire will receive £209,995.

The Government encourage Local Transport Authorities and local transport providers to work together to ensure that services meet the needs of the travelling public.

Rail Services (Melksham, Wiltshire)

The Petition of Melksham Oak Community School and the people of Melksham in Wiltshire,

Declares that Melksham has one of the poorest train services in the country for a town of its size with only two services a day each way at times which are impractical for commuters; notes that travelling to work, school, or even visiting friends could be made easier with more trains on Wiltshire's railway; and further notes that the Government will be reallocating a number of trains no longer needed in London and the South East to other parts of the rail network.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government to allocate additional carriages for use on the TransWilts service between Swindon and Salisbury, calling at Melksham.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Duncan Hames, Official Report,* 3 March 2011; Vol. 524, c. 532.]

[P000892]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 7 April 2011:

In the first instance, decisions on whether to provide financial support for additional local train services such as those requested for the Melksham line are primarily for local authorities rather than for the Department for Transport. In some circumstances, the Government may decide to relieve the local authority of the requirement to fund such additional services in the longer-term.

I made a written statement on 28 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 17WS-18WS to clarify the Government's position on support for additional local rail services. I said I was keen to encourage local bodies to identify the best solutions for identified local needs and therefore wished to ensure that they were not deterred from considering an improved rail service where it clearly offered value for money.

Nevertheless, the Government's key priority remains one of reducing the budget deficit and, therefore, careful consideration has to be given to any proposal which might increase the cost of the railway, either in the short or long-term. However, we recognise the arguments put forward by promoters that regional and local rail services need to adapt to population, housing and economic growth in localities. Therefore, it is only right that, once they have demonstrated value for money after a trial period, new or improved services promoted by local authorities are treated in a similar way to the more established services which are currently funded as part of the national network.

It is important that a local authority promoter demonstrates that a rail scheme is the best way to address regional and local transport issues. Hence, promoters will still be expected to fund a new or enhanced service for the first three years to demonstrate its commitment to the service and show that it delivers value for money in the light of actual experience.

Regulation of Bus Services (Leeds)

The Petition of residents of Leeds and supporters of the Fairer Fares Campaign,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that there is a need for Leeds to have a regulated bus service that provides a regular service for the community, with an honest fare that is not just for profit; and notes that such a bus service must provide an improved customer service that helps the people of Leeds in their day to day lives.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to regulate the bus service in Leeds and to ensure that the service is honest and reliable.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Greg Mulholland, Official Report,* Tuesday 8 March 2011; Vol. 524, c. 878.]

[P000896]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 11 April 2011:

The Government do not determine the fare prices of local bus services, 78% of which are provided by commercial bus operators in a market environment. Where there are no commercial services, services are procured by Local Transport Authorities as "supported services".

Local Transport Authorities can impose a limit on fares upon an area as part of a statutory Quality Partnership Scheme or introduce a Quality Contract Scheme. Under such a Quality Contract Scheme, a local authority or authorities can determine what local bus services and facilities are provided in a described area and what fares are charged, subject to a statutory public interest test.

Metro, the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) and West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (PTE), plans to introduce a Quality Contract Scheme or Partnership that would make Metro responsible for setting routes, fares, timetables and quality standards across the whole of West Yorkshire.

The Government are waiting for the outcome of the current Competition Commission inquiry into the local bus market before making any decision about whether to change the framework for bus services in England outside London. In the meantime, the Government encourage Local Transport Authorities and commercial bus operators to work together to ensure that bus services meet the expectations of the travelling public.

HEALTH

Hospital Services (Shropshire)

The Petition of residents of Montgomeryshire,

Declares that the petitioners oppose plans to move the Special Care Baby Unit, the Children's Ward and some maternity services from Shrewsbury to Telford.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to prevent these services being moved from Shrewsbury to Telford.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Glyn Davies, Official Report,* 23 March 2011; Vol. 525, c. 1053.]

[P000907]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issue referred to has been subject to a local consultation exercise. I am asking NHS West Midlands to ensure the views of the petitioners are taken into account.

I am advised the consultation document, "Keeping it in the County", published by Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT), NHS Telford and Wrekin, and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, outlines why the local NHS believes change is needed to some of the services it provides in the Shropshire area. These include in-patient children's services and services provided in the maternity building at the Royal Shrewsbury hospital site. Proposals are based on evidence supporting the delivery of the bulk of children and maternity services at Princess Royal hospital, Telford. Midwife led care would continue to be available at both sites as is currently the case and children's out-patient services would also continue to be available at both sites. I understand public consultation began on 9 December 2010 and concluded on 14 March 2011. Issues identified as part of that consultation needing further work will be addressed as part of the next phase of the local process.

Health is a devolved responsibility. In England, PCTs are responsible for improving the health of their local community, securing the provision of high quality services and integrating health and social care locally. In Wales, Local Health Boards fulfil a similar function. Both the Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government recognise that some patients resident in one country will receive care on the other side of the border, for reasons of practicality or preference. For this reason, both Governments send representatives to the Cross Border Health and Social Care Group, which meets to discuss topical cross border issues. They have also, with input from the NHS in England and Wales and the Wales Office, agreed a "cross border commissioning protocol", which seeks to address some of the consequences of the diverging structures of the NHS in England and Wales. The document circumscribes the responsibilities of the commissioners of health services.

The Petition of residents of Shrewsbury and Atcham,

Declares that the petitioners oppose plans to move the Special Care Baby Unit, the Children's Ward and some maternity services from Shrewsbury to Telford.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to prevent these services being moved from Shrewsbury to Telford.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Daniel Kawczynski, Official Report,* 23 March 2011; Vol. 525, c. 1053.]

[P000908]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issue referred to has been subject to a local consultation exercise. I am asking NHS West Midlands to ensure the views of the petitioners are taken into account.

I am advised that the consultation document, "Keeping it in the County", published by Shropshire County primary care trust (PCT), NHS Telford and Wrekin, and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, outlines why the local NHS believes change is needed to some of the services it provides in the Shropshire area. These include in-patient children's services and services provided in the maternity building at the Royal Shrewsbury hospital site. Proposals are based on evidence supporting the delivery of the bulk of children and maternity services at Princess Royal hospital, Telford. Midwife led care would continue to be available at both sites as is currently the case and children's out-patient services would also continue to be available at both sites. I understand public consultation began on 9 December 2010 and concluded on 14 March 2011. Issues identified as part of that consultation needing further work will be addressed as part of the next phase of this process.

EDUCATION

Child Protection

The Petition of Jackie Goddard,

Declares that the Petitioner's daughter T was removed from her care because of a burn and a number of incidents where her skin was inflamed. Initially the Petitioner could not explain the cause of these. However, it is now known that the burn was caused by the control panel on a heater which is now accepted by the manufacturers as being faulty. The Petitioner also received a new suite just before the inflammations were recognized. The lesions are also similar to those caused by Di-Methyl Fumerate, however, no test has been allowed to identify whether T exhibits such an allergic reaction.

When the Petitioner's daughter was removed she was told her daughter would be going into foster care. Her father raised concerns that given that he was a justice of the peace and a registered child minder it would be surprising if he was rejected as a carer. The Petitioner also believes that the reason they took her younger daughter into care and left her older daughter was because the older daughter was of a darker colour and the objective was to satisfy adoption targets rather than protect her younger daughter. The younger daughter was, therefore, more "adoptable".

The family believe that the medical evidence in this case should be reviewed as the courts decisions rely on information that has now been shown to be unreliable. The family also believes that this case demonstrates that Manchester Children's Services have acted with a priority of achieving an adoption rather than a priority of protecting children.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to reprioritise the child protection system to concentrate on protecting children and that the House of Commons institute a parliamentary inquiry into this case and the failure of the checks and balances involved.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—[*Presented by Chris Ruane, Official Report,* 9 March 2011; Vol. 525, c. 5P.]

[P000899]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

The Secretary of State for Education announced on 10 June 2010 an independent review of child protection in England. The review is being carried out by Professor Eileen Munro who is due to submit her final report at the end of this month.

The immense dedication and hard work of front-line professionals is an inspiration. But the system of child protection in our country is not working as well as it should be and needs to be reformed. We want social workers to be clear about their responsibilities and to be accountable in the way they protect children. They need to be in a position to make well-informed judgments, based on up-to-date evidence, in the best interests of children.

The Family Justice Review, which is sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Education and the Welsh Assembly Government and was established in March 2010, has been asked to consider radical reform of the current systems including the processes when local authorities apply to the courts to take children into care. Its Interim Report, issued on 31 March 2011, will form the basis for a wide-ranging public consultation lasting until late June. Its final recommendations are due to be put to Ministers in the autumn.

The Government are aware that there are a small number of contentious adoption cases, and is considering this matter. It has already strengthened the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer in relation to care planning and placement decisions including adoption.

The law is clear that local authorities cannot remove children from their parents' care, unless this is with the parents' consent, without first referring the matter to a court. They cannot place a child for adoption with prospective adopters without the birth parents' consent, unless they have first obtained a placement order made by a court.

It would be for the House itself, rather than the Government, to initiate any inquiry of the kind proposed, subject to the House's restrictions on debating matters which are the subject of active court proceedings.

Education Maintenance Allowance

The Humble Petition of Stephen Yemm, citizen of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and others, including 420 other students of West Nottinghamshire College and Queen Elizabeth School, both based in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire,

Sheweth, that they are opposed to the axing of the Education Maintenance Allowance which currently helps thousands of young people reach their full potential.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House calls upon the Government not to axe the EMA, but instead to continue with it supporting adult learners through this adult learning grant.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—[*Presented by Mr Alan Meale, Official Report,* Tuesday 8 February 2011; Vol. 523, c. 270.]

[P000885]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

We announced in October 2010 our intention to end the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme because it was a very expensive way of supporting young people to continue in education or training and was not well targeted on those who are facing the greatest financial barriers to participation.

On 28 March 2011 we announced a new £180 million 16-19 bursary fund. From September 2011, schools, colleges and training organisations will be able to target support towards those young people who most need support to enable them to continue their education and training post-16. We also announced proposed transitional arrangements to help the majority of young people who are presently in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance.

We are currently consulting on the proposed arrangements. Further details of the proposals and the consultation can be found at http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/ . The consultation ends on 20 May 2011.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) remains committed to supporting adult students in further education. BIS published the "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" strategy in November 2010. Within it the intention to change the current arrangements for adult learner support from the 2011-12 academic year was outlined. Streamlining some of the current learner support funds into one discretionary fund is in response to the sector, who indicated they would welcome a more coherent and simplified approach to student support. In doing this, BIS is not reducing the amount of support available, but simplifying the way in which it is administered and awarded.

Existing ALG recipients will be able to apply for continuing funding until the end of their course. By merging the remaining budget allocated to ALG into a discretionary fund, BIS is enabling colleges and other training providers to be able to make sure those students who need support most will receive it.

The Petition of residents of Leicester and the surrounding areas,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance; notes that a substantial number of young people are in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance in Leicester; and further notes that education can provide a better future for young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Keith Vaz, Official Report,* 9 March 2011; Vol. 524, c. 1030.]

[P000897]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

We announced in October 2010 our intention to end the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme because it was a very expensive way of supporting young people to continue in education or training and was not well targeted on those who are facing the greatest financial barriers to participation.

On 28 March 2011 we announced a new £180 million 16-19 bursary fund. From September 2011, schools, colleges and training organisations will be able to target support towards those young people who most need support to enable them to continue their education and training post-16. We also announced proposed transitional arrangements to help the majority of young people who are presently in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance.

We are currently consulting on the proposed arrangements. Further details of the proposals and the consultation can be found at http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/. The consultation ends on 20 May 2011.

The Petition of residents of Leicester and the surrounding area,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance; notes that a substantial number of young people are in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance in Leicester; and further notes that education can provide a better future for young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Liz Kendall, Official Report,* 16 March 2011; Vol. 525, c. 3P.]

[P000900]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

We announced in October 2010 our intention to end the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme because it was a very expensive way of supporting young people to continue in education or training and was not well targeted on those who are facing the greatest financial barriers to participation.

On 28 March 2011 we announced a new £180 million 16-19 bursary fund. From September 2011, schools, colleges and training organisations will be able to target support towards those young people who most need support to enable them to continue their education and training post-16. We also announced proposed transitional arrangements to help the majority of young people who are presently in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance.

We are currently consulting on the proposed arrangements. Further details of the proposals and the consultation can be found at: http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/. The consultation ends on 20 May 2011.

Petitions

Wednesday 27 April 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Bus Service (Croyland, Wellingborough)

The Humble Petition of residents of the Croyland area of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, and the surrounding areas,

Sheweth,

That the proposed loss or reduction of public transport routes within the Croyland Ward of Wellingborough will significantly disadvantage local residents, in particular the elderly, disabled and young; and that the potential loss of the W3 bus service will leave many residents with no way of getting to the town centre.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Transport to liaise with Northamptonshire County Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough to find a resolution that will lead to the maintenance of an acceptable level of public transport in Croyland.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—[*Presented by Mr Peter Bone, Official Report,* 5 April 2011; Vol. 526, c. 1016.]

[P000915]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Government continue to provide significant funds for local bus services, in Wellingborough and elsewhere: through bus subsidy for operators, via the national concessionary travel entitlement, which was protected in the budget, and through general support for local authorities.

However, it is not the role of central Government to determine which non-commercial bus services should be supported by local transport authorities. These are decisions which must be made locally, in consultation with the public.

I recognise that local councils are making difficult decisions in the light of reductions in revenue support from central Government, but they have almost total discretion about which services to value when budgeting for the future. Certain councils, such as East Riding of Yorkshire Council, have taken the decision to protect bus services and to make efficiencies elsewhere instead.

In many areas, community transport can play a valuable role in preventing isolation amongst the young, elderly and disabled. I therefore strongly encourage local councils to work in partnership with operators and local communities to examine how more flexible services might be provided. To facilitate this, my Department recently announced a £10 million fund for community transport in rural areas. Northamptonshire County Council will receive a £209,995 share of this fund, as well as six days of consultancy resource from the Community Transport Association.

Isham Bypass (Wellingborough)

The Humble Petition of residents of the Isham area of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, and the surrounding areas,

Sheweth,

That for forty years there has been a need for a by-pass of the village of Isham; that the recent increase in housing and traffic has led to the environmental conditions for the residents of the main road in Isham being intolerable; and that the lack of a by-pass has caused unacceptable levels of noise and air pollution, safety issues for pedestrians and motorists and structural damage to properties.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Transport to liaise with Northamptonshire County Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough to find a resolution that will lead to the reconsideration of the cancellation of the Isham By-Pass and a high priority given to its construction.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—[*Presented by Mr Peter Bone, Official Report,* 5 April 2011; Vol. 526, c. 1016.]

[P000914]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The proposed A509 Isham bypass, promoted by Northamptonshire county council, was identified as a priority for funding within the previous regional funding allocation funding process. The scheme is proposed to ease congestion on the A590 through Isham by construction of a 4.3km dual carriageway to the west of the village.

The Secretary of State for Transport announced on 10 June 2010 a suspension of activity on major schemes as part of the spending review process. On 26 October 2010 he announced the process for prioritising funding for inherited major schemes following the outcome of the spending review. The Isham bypass was placed in the "Pre-Qualification Pool" of schemes on which a preliminary assessment would be undertaken following receipt of a revised funding offer, which was subsequently received from Northamptonshire county council. On 4 February the Secretary of State for Transport announced his decision on the pre-qualification schemes. Eleven schemes, including Isham bypass, were not selected for inclusion in the further funding round. In the case of Isham bypass this was because the promoters had not proposed any reduction in the amount of funding they intended to request from the Department for Transport. This compared with an overall reduction on the call on departmental funds from other schemes amounting to a saving of 42%.

It will be for the promoter to decide the next steps on this scheme. The process for providing future funding for major local authority transport schemes has yet to be agreed. Promoters will therefore need to consider, in consultation with the business community and local residents, whether further investment in the development of this scheme would be in the best interests of local council tax payers. Further development costs would be at the promoters own risk.

Petition

Thursday 28 April 2011

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Teaching Assistants

The Petition of residents of Cumbria, and others,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about the plight of Teaching Assistants in Cumbria, who feel they are being unfairly treated and whose professionalism is severely under threat. The Teaching Assistants/support staff across the country are currently fighting a change to their terms and conditions that affects their hours and a considerable loss of pay. Support staff are a vital resource for the running of a school. Senior Teaching Assistants also cover classes when teachers are absent or on planning time.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Education to look into the plight of Teaching Assistants.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Tony Cunningham, Official Report,* 9 March 2011; Vol. 524, c. 1031.]

[P000898]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Government are not party to any changes to terms and conditions or job evaluation exercises a council may choose to undertake. However, the Government understand that Cumbria county council has recently undergone a job evaluation process in order to meet its commitments under the 1997 single status agreement. This is a national agreement between local government employers and trade unions which enables local authorities to meet their obligations under equal pay legislation.

Through representations from Members of Parliament, school governors, teaching assistants and others, the Government are aware that some staff have significant concerns about the impact that the job evaluation process will have on their individual terms and conditions. The Government are also aware that some teaching assistants believe that, as part of the process, their role has been incorrectly evaluated.

Head teachers, school governors and parents quite rightly have a high regard for school support staff and it is clear that this is an issue of some concern locally. The Government place great value on all staff in schools and the contribution they make to improving the life chances of children. However, the role of central Government in local government pay issues is extremely limited. These are matters for councils to determine as individual employers and it would not be appropriate for the Government to intervene in how Cumbria or any other council manages its work force.

The Government understand that Cumbria county council is currently undergoing an appeals process and is proposing to offer a year's pay protection to allow those seeing a decrease in pay, time to adjust financially. The process of job evaluation exercises to meet commitments under the single status agreement can be difficult for both staff and councils. However, by placing the vast majority of the work force on a single harmonised pay scale, and taking steps to address the historical inequalities in pay this has revealed, local government has made significant progress in achieving equal pay, which is to be commended.

Petition

Tuesday 3 May 2011

OBSERVATIONS

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Child Health

The Petition of Staff and Pupils of Hackleton Church of England Primary School,

Declares that just over 8 million children die every year before their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes like diarrhoea and pneumonia; that ensuring that proven, cost-effective, preventative measures such as immunisation and breastfeeding are available at family and community level can save millions of these lives; that, where child health is prioritised, in countries such as Malawi, there are real and long-lasting results, showing that change is possible; and notes that the petitioners believe that global leaders must prioritise child health and end these unnecessary deaths.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for International Development to widen the Government's approach on maternal and newborn health in the developing world to include child health.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrea Leadsom, Official Report,* 23 March 2011; Vol. 525, c. 1052.]

[P000906]

Observations from the Secretary of State for International Development:

The UK Government are, and will remain, a strong supporter of efforts to improve child health.

We share the concerns of the Petitioners. It is unacceptable that more than 8 million children die every year before their fifth birthday, and that over 3.5 million of these deaths are babies who die within the first 28 days of life. It is also unacceptable that a child dies every 15 seconds from dirty water and poor sanitation.

The Department for International Development (DFID) tackles the direct causes of child mortality, including measles, malaria, diarrhoea, HIV and AIDS. Examples of DFID support include:

> Over the past two years we have provided funding to help the Global Polio Eradication Initiative: vaccinate more than 400 million children using more than 1.2 billion doses of vaccine; improve the training of staff to carry out the vaccinations; and develop approaches to overcome the challenges faced in reaching children in the last polio-infected areas of the world.
>
> We are also supporting the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), which since 2000 has immunised more than 280 million children saving over 5 million lives. Within this GAVI has helped prevent over 30,000 deaths from polio; over 1.2 million deaths from measles; and over 3 million deaths from Hepatitis B, reaching children in over 70 countries around the world.
>
> We have a new priority to improve the prevention and treatment of malaria which is the cause of one in five child deaths in Africa.

DFID recently launched two new Frameworks for Results, detailing plans to tackle malaria and prevent deaths during pregnancy and childbirth. Both publications can be found on our website: www.dfid.gov.uk. They will make an important contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goal 4 (reduce child mortality) particularly through improving the survival chances of newborn babies.

The chances of a newborn baby dying remains stubbornly high. This is despite the achievement of significant reductions in infant and child deaths. The minutes and hours around childbirth is the time when the risk of death is greatest for women and babies, with around 2 million lives a year lost due to complications in labour and birth.

The health of newborns is inextricably linked to the health of their mothers. Interventions to improve maternal health and survival also improve newborn health and survival. These include: pre-birth care, skilled attendance at birth, access to emergency obstetric care when necessary, adequate nutrition, post-delivery and newborn care, education to improve health, breastfeeding, and improved sanitation, hygiene and water.

Malaria is one of the leading causes of avoidable childhood death worldwide. An estimated 781,000 people died as a result of malaria in 2009; 85% of those deaths were in children less than five years of age, and 91% occurred in Africa. Pregnant women are four times more likely to be affected by malaria than other adults and malaria contributes to maternal anaemia, putting both mother and child at risk. It exacerbates the health impact of under-nutrition. It can result in poor cognitive development and it contributes to school absenteeism across endemic countries.

One focus of the UK's approach to combating malaria is to improve case management of fever by increasing access to and use of effective malaria diagnosis and treatment. Better diagnosis of fever provides the basis for both the appropriate treatment of malaria and non-malaria cases, particularly for childhood illnesses like respiratory infection and diarrhoeal disease.

In the Frameworks for Results, the UK sets out how we will:

> save 250,000 newborn babies by 2015
>
> support at least 2 million safe deliveries, ensuring long-lasting improvements in quality maternity services, particularly for the poorest 40%; and
>
> help halve malaria deaths in at least ten high burden countries by 2015.

The survival of mothers is important for their children's survival to and beyond five, as well as their development. Recent DFID-supported evidence from Bangladesh shows that a child whose mother has died has a significantly lower chance of surviving to 10-years-old.

We are determined to deliver the commitments we have made in our Framework for Results. We will continue to support civil society and other partners who strive to improve child health and the wider realisation of children's rights.

Petition

Wednesday 4 May 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Bus Services (Hartlepool)

The Petition of residents of the borough of Hartlepool,

Declares that the petitioners are concerned that residents in areas of the borough such as The Headland and Burbank, as well as villagers in Dalton Piercy, Elwick and Greatham, have been left isolated and without transport following the decision of Hartlepool Borough council to cut public subsidy to private bus companies.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to work with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, residents of the borough, Hartlepool Borough Council and bus operators immediately to reinstate the services and then to secure a financial settlement and a regulatory framework which provides a comprehensive, reliable and cheap system of bus transport in Hartlepool, designed to address the social and economic needs of passengers in both the urban and rural areas of the borough, rather than the narrow interests of private bus companies.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Iain Wright, Official Report,* 28 March 2011; Vol. 526, c. 142.*]*

[P000909]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Government continue to provide significant funds for local bus services, in Hartlepool and elsewhere: through bus subsidy for operators and via the national concessionary travel entitlement, which was protected in the Budget.

However, it is not the role of central Government to determine which non-commercial bus services should be supported by local transport authorities. These are decisions which must be made locally, in consultation with the public.

I recognise that local councils are making difficult decisions in the light of reductions in revenue support from central Government, but they have almost total discretion about which services to value when budgeting for the future. Certain councils, such as East Riding of Yorkshire Council, have taken the decision to protect bus services and to make efficiencies elsewhere instead.

In rural areas, community transport can play a valuable role in preventing isolation. I therefore strongly encourage local councils to work in partnership with operators and local communities to examine how more flexible services might be provided. To facilitate this, my Department recently announced a £10 million fund for community transport in rural areas. Hartlepool Borough Council received a share of this fund, as well as six days of consultancy resource from the Community Transport Association.

With regard to the regulatory framework, the Government are waiting for the outcome of the current Competition Commission inquiry into the local bus market before making any decision of the future of bus services in England outside London. In the meantime, the Government encourage local transport authorities and commercial bus operators to work together to ensure that bus services meet the expectations of the travelling public.

Petition

Thursday 5 May 2011

OBSERVATIONS

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

World education

The Petition of the constituents of Manchester Withington and others,

Declares that world leaders have promised that all children will have a primary education by 2015, but with only five years left to go there are still 72 million children missing out on an education completely.

The Petitioners therefore request the House of Commons to urge the Government to act quickly and decisively to ensure that the goal of all children obtaining a primary education by 2015 is indeed obtained.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr John Leech, Official Report,* 20 July 2010; Vol. 514, c. 321.]

[P000845]

Observations from the Secretary of State for International Development:

Although good progress has been made over the past decade, with 47 million more children gaining access to education, it is a tragedy that, with just five years to go until 2015, 72 million primary aged children still do not have access to any education at all.

As laid out in "The Coalition: our programme for government", the UK will prioritise increasing access to basic services, such as health and education, for the world's poorest people.

I have recently initiated a review of all of the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid programmes, including health and education, to ensure that we achieve maximum value for money and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

DFID support to education is demonstrating results. In 2008-09 DFID funds supported some 5 million children in school, trained 100,000 teachers and built 12,000 classrooms.

It is clear that accelerated international action is needed to achieve the goal of universal primary education by 2015. At the forthcoming United Nations MDG review summit in September 2010, the UK will be pushing for a results orientated action plan to meet the MDGs, including those related to education.

Petitions

Tuesday 10 May 2011

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

ESOL Funding

The Petition of students at Loughborough College, Leicestershire,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about the Government's proposed new approach to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), particularly the funding changes to such courses proposed in the Government's Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth document.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to consider with caution any changes to ESOL funding to ensure that they do not disproportionately affect marginalised and vulnerable people who are currently studying on ESOL courses.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000921]

OBSERVATIONS

EDUCATION

Education Maintenance Allowance

The Petition of residents of Leicester and the surrounding area,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance; notes that a substantial number of young people are in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance in Leicester; and further notes that education can provide a better future for young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sir Peter Soulsby, Official Report,* 15 March 2011; Vol. 525, c. 273.]

[P000901]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

We announced in October 2010 our intention to end the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme because it was a very expensive way of supporting young people to continue in education or training and was not well targeted on those who are facing the greatest financial barriers to participation.

On 28 March 2011 we announced a new £180 million 16-19 bursary fund. From September 2011, schools, colleges and training organisations will be able to target support towards those young people who most need support to enable them to continue their education and training post-16. We also announced proposed transitional arrangements to help the majority of young people who are presently in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance.

We are currently consulting on the proposed arrangements. Further details of the proposals and the consultation can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/. The consultation ends on 20 May 2011.

Refurbishment of Hillbourne School, Poole

The Petition of residents of the Borough of Poole,

Declares that Hillbourne School in Creekmoor Ward is in urgent need of refurbishment.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons asks the Department for Education to make the school the highest priority for resources as they become available.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Robert Syms, Official Report,* 8 March 2011; Vol. 524, c. 878.]

[P000895]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

On 20 October, the Chancellor announced that Department for Education's capital budget would be £15.8 billion over the four-year comprehensive spending review period. This settlement is extremely tight, with a 60% reduction in 2014-15 compared to 2010-11. Over the next few years our priority is to reduce the country's budget deficit. This is essential, as the amount we are currently spending on debt interest payments could be used to rebuild or refurbish 10 schools every day.

We know that there are schools such as Hillbourne School in need of refurbishment, which have missed out from previous Government capital programmes, and that people feel they have therefore been treated unfairly.

The Capital Review, recently published on the DFE website, recommends that funding for capital should be directed at ensuring there are enough school places available locally and addressing poor condition. Although the Government are yet to respond to the review we are clear that a new system should prioritise areas which are experiencing high pressures to increase the number of school places, and those with buildings in the most need of repair.

Even where funding is tight, it is essential that buildings and equipment are properly maintained, to ensure the health and safety standards are met, and to prevent a backlog of decay building up that is expensive to address. Therefore, in 2011-12, £1,337 million will be available for capital maintenance for schools, with over £1 billion being allocated for local authorities to prioritise to maintenance needs. In addition, £195 million will be allocated directly to schools for their own use.

The capital allocation for 2011-12 for Poole borough council and its schools was announced on 13 December. The council will now need to consider how it prioritises the available funding, having regard to the building needs of the schools in its area.

Petition

Wednesday 11 May 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

NHS Reforms

The Petition of residents of York, and others,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the Government's health reforms will break up NHS services and that these reforms will result in business motives cutting deeply into the fairness, quality and value of the service at the expense of patient care; that the Petitioners believe the reforms will lead to a postcode lottery, with patients' age, medical condition and home address affecting the quality of care they receive; that cuts to frontline jobs and services will lead to longer waiting times; that money will be wasted on the NHS market bureaucracy, draining it from patient care; and that there will be a big increase in private companies running the health service for profit.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reconsider the reforms so that patients remain at the heart of the NHS.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Hugh Bayley, Official Report,* 3 May 2011; Vol. 527, c. 645.]

[P000917]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issue referred to relates to the Health and Social Care Bill, which completed its Committee stage on 31 March. However, the Government recognise that the speed of progress has brought with it some substantive concerns. While Ministers recognise that some of those concerns are genuine, some are misplaced or based on misrepresentations.

Ministers believe that the NHS is a great institution, but that it could be still better. The Government's plans seek to put clinicians at the heart of planning services to improve the care for their patients—there is a body of evidence both from this country and internationally about the importance of involving clinicians in commissioning decisions and this is what our proposals are built upon. Frontline clinicians will be empowered to be the leaders of a more autonomous NHS, with increased accountability to their local populations.

This is not about privatising the NHS. The NHS is built on the principle that it is free at the point of use for everyone based on need, not ability to pay. This will not change. Competition in the NHS helps to improve quality and efficiency by allowing people to choose the provider that they wish from a list of accredited providers: as the patient chooses the provider for their care but does not pay for it directly, price plays little part in their decision. However, it will be in providers' interests to maintain and improve the quality of their services to attract patients.

With regard to the residents of York and others' specific concerns, the Department is taking the opportunity of a natural break in the passage of the Bill to pause, listen, and engage with all those who want the NHS to succeed, and subsequently to bring forward amendments to improve the Bill further.

There is widespread agreement that the principles on which the Bill is based, such as improving public accountability, devolving control of the NHS to local levels and placing patients at the heart of decisions about their own care, are the right ones. However, Ministers recognise that there are also some questions and concerns about what the Department is doing, and about the mechanics of putting these principles into practice.

As such, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State launched an engagement exercise on 6 April so that Ministers can understand what is already working well, hear suggestions for implementing the reforms successfully and consider possible ways to improve the Bill.

The Government want to make sure they capture the views of everyone who cares about the NHS. Members of the public are able to feed their views into the listening exercise through patient and professional networks, by posting their thoughts on the Modernisation of Health and Care website at: www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare or by writing to:

NHS Modernisation Listening Exercise
Room 605
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1 A 2NS

Email: nhsfutureforum@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Petitions

Thursday 12 May 2011

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Green Belt Land (Mangotsfield, South Gloucestershire)

The Petition of the residents of Mangotsfield, Rodway and Emersons Green,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned by recent actions taken by a developer to erect a hoarding fence around a site of protected green belt land at Cossham Street, Mangotsfield, which is used by the local community; and notes that land which has been proved to have been in local community use can apply for permission to be designated as having village green status.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage South Gloucestershire Council to support any forthcoming application by local residents for village green status with regard to green belt land at Cossham Street, Mangotsfield.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Skidmore, Official Report,* 29 March 2011; Vol. 526, c. 1P.]

[P000912]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

Commons registration authorities have been under a statutory duty since the late 1960s to maintain the registers of common land and town or village greens. As part of that function they are required to determine applications to amend the registers. Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 allows for applications to register new town or village greens. Land becomes town or village green at the point at which it is recorded in the register of greens.

In this case South Gloucestershire council would be responsible for determining any application to register land at Cossham Street, Mangotsfield as a green. The council must determine the application impartially and on purely factual evidence and disregard any extraneous matters. The criteria for registration are that the land has been used by the inhabitants of the locality or neighbourhood within a locality for lawful sports and pastimes "as of right" (without permission, force or secrecy) for at least 20 years.

It is inappropriate for the Government to express an opinion on an individual application, and the Government are therefore unable to accede to this request.

JUSTICE

Sentencing Guidelines (Manslaughter)

The Petition of residents of Alyn and Deeside,

Declares that Peter Jones, a 24-year-old former pupil of Alun School, Mold, died in hospital following an attack by Gafyn Thomas Denman, 21, who is from the Mold area; notes that Gafyn Thomas Denman was found guilty of manslaughter and was jailed for 40 months for an unprovoked attack; further notes that, at the time of sentencing, Judge Merfyn Hughes QC explained that his hands were tied by the sentencing guidelines in cases of "one-punch" manslaughter such as this.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review sentencing guidelines for those convicted of manslaughter so that sentences can better reflect the severity of the offence.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mark Tami, Official Report,* 22 March 2011; Vol. 525, c. 923.]

[P000905]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government express their deepest sympathy to the family of Peter Jones over their tragic loss.

The Government have the following observations to make.

The maximum penalty for manslaughter is a life sentence but, because of the wide-range of circumstances in which a manslaughter conviction can arise, this offence covers a wider band of sentences than for any other offence. Sentencing in individual cases is entirely a matter for the courts, which will take account of all the circumstances of the particular case. In doing so, the courts will be guided by relevant case law laid down by the Court of Appeal and any relevant sentencing guidelines when determining the appropriate sentence.

The independent Sentencing Council and the Court of Appeal are responsible for producing sentencing guidelines. There is no current guideline on unlawful act manslaughter but the courts will take account of relevant case law and guidance established by the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal has concluded that it is not realistic to treat what is described as "one-punch manslaughter" as comprising a single set of circumstances; cases involving death resulting from a single blow vary greatly in their seriousness. In a judgment issued in December 2009 on manslaughter cases, the Court of Appeal said that

> "the manslaughter cases with which we are concerned involved gratuitous, unprovoked violence in the streets of the kind which seriously discourages law-abiding citizens from walking their streets, particularly at night".

It went on to say

> "that crimes which result in death should be treated more seriously, ...so as to ensure that the increased focus on the fact that the victim has died in consequence of an unlawful act of violence, even where the conviction is for manslaughter, should, in accordance with the legislative intention, be given greater weight".

The Government have no plans to request to the Sentencing Council to produce a guideline on unlawful act manslaughter.

Petition

Friday 13 May 2011

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Privatisation of the Royal Mail

The Petition of Staff and customers of Post Offices in Newcastle-upon-Tyne North constituency,

Declares that the petitioners are concerned about the proposed full privatisation of the Royal Mail and its impact upon on the number of Post Offices in Newcastle.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to reconsider the proposals contained within the Postal Services Bill to privatise the Royal Mail; to ensure the longest possible Inter-Business Agreement between Royal Mail and Post Office Limited; and to specify in law a minimum number of counter services for access to Royal Mail services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Catherine McKinnell, Official Report,* 26 April 2011; Vol. 527, c. 1P.]

[P000918]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

The Government are committed to securing the long-term future of the Royal Mail and the Post Office and to preserving the universal postal service for everyone in the UK. These twin objectives are at the heart of the Postal Services Bill.

Furthermore, the Post Office is not for sale and will remain in public ownership, although there is the possibility for the Post Office to move to a mutual ownership structure, run for the public benefit, in due course.

The Government acknowledge the importance of the relationship between Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd. There is an overwhelming commercial imperative for the two to work together. The companies are reliant on one another, and there already is a long-term contract in place between Royal Mail and the Post Office.

In giving evidence to the Public Bill Committee in the House of Commons, the management of both Royal Mail and the Post Office committed to signing the longest legally permissible contract between the two companies, prior to separation. The Government will ensure they honour that commitment.

In addition to this very clear assurance, this Government are committed to the Post Office's sustainable future. There will be no repeat of the closure programmes of the previous Government. At the spending review in October, £1.34 billion of funding was announced to modernise the network and safeguard its future, making it a stronger partner for Royal Mail. In return, the Post Office is committed to ensuring a network of around 11,500 branches over the course of the spending review period, and to maintaining the access criteria that ensure that 99% of the national population lives within three miles of a post office.

The Government believe that the full range of access criteria in place, taken together with the commitment to maintaining a national network of around 11,500 branches, obviate any need for a minimum number of counters for access to Royal Mail services to be enshrined in law.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 26 April 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: India

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take *(a)* through the proposed EU-India Free Trade Agreement and *(b)* at the G20 to reduce agriculture subsidies in developed countries. [50731]

Mr Paice: Bilateral and regional free trade agreements determine market access, not subsidies. However, completing multilateral trade negotiations—the Doha Development Agenda—would tackle developed countries' trade-distorting agricultural subsidies. The UK has helped to ensure an ambitious EU offer in these negotiations. At its most recent summit last November, the G20 restated its commitment to completing the Doha negotiations. In G20 discussions on the price volatility of agricultural commodities, the UK is arguing for deeper and more transparent markets throughout the G20 in which the role of distorting subsidies and trade practices—such as export restrictions—is greatly reduced. Furthermore, the UK is arguing for a very substantial reduction in subsidies to agriculture as part of current negotiations on the future of the common agricultural policy.

Agriculture: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many eligible claims for the Single Payment Scheme are outstanding to farmers in Pendle constituency; and what the combined value of such claims is. [51240]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency does not record information on payments to farmers on a constituency basis. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of wild animals used in travelling circuses. [51901]

Mr Paice: We do not maintain figures for the number of wild animals used in travelling circuses, although we understand that the figure is approximately 50.

Animals: Clones

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent representations she has made at the EU Agriculture Council on the pre-market authorisation of meat and other products derived from cloned animals; [50391]

(2) what representations Ministers in her Department made at the most recent meeting of the Agricultural and Fisheries Council on the mandatory labelling of food derived from the offspring of cloned animals. [50728]

Mr Paice: The pre-market authorisation of meat and other products derived from cloned animals and the mandatory labelling of food derived from offspring of cloned animals have not been discussed at recent meetings of the EU Agriculture Council. They have been discussed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Governments of EU member states (COREPER). COREPER agreed the approach to be taken by the Council at meetings of the Conciliation Committee set up to try to resolve differences between the Council and the European Parliament on proposed amendments to the EU Novel Foods Regulation.

The UK Government made it clear in COREPER discussions that it considers that a ban on cloning and food from clones would be disproportionate in terms of food safety and animal welfare. We are content with pre-market authorisation of food from cloned animals as required by existing novel foods legislation.

The Government also made it clear that mandatory labelling of meat or milk products derived from animals with a clone in their ancestry would be unenforceable and impractical because there is no traceability system that can be applied to imported or home produced products from descendants of clones. As there are no food safety issues, the cost of introducing a mandatory system, which would need to comply with international trade rules, cannot be justified.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to repeal rules prohibiting the sale of meat and milk products from the offspring of cloned animals. [51534]

Mr Paice: Under the EU novel foods regulation, food from cloned animals must be authorised before it can be legally marketed anywhere in the EU. There are no EU or UK rules prohibiting the sale of meat and milk products from the offspring of cloned animals. The European Commission and other member states do not consider that food from an animal descended from a clone falls within the scope of this legislation. The Food Standards Agency is considering results from a recent consultation before deciding whether to adopt the Commission's position and expects to make an announcement shortly.

Biodiversity

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the development of a cross-EU strategy on biodiversity. [50612]

Richard Benyon: The UK supports the development of a new EU biodiversity strategy. The EU strategy is the EU response to the new global biodiversity framework which was agreed in Nagoya in October last year. It will identify the priorities at EU level for conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

Animals: Circuses

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had on licences issued to Bobby Roberts' Super Circus. [51753]

Mr Paice: Circuses are not licensed for purposes of animal welfare but, under the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925, are required to register the details of all animals used in performance with the relevant local authority. Under the 1925 Act, local authorities and police have powers to enter premises to inspect animals for purposes of welfare.

No discussions have taken place between DEFRA and the relevant local authority under which Bobby Roberts' Super Circus has registered under the 1925 Act.

Registration under the 1925 Act can only be withdrawn if the individual concerned is convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.

All animals under the control of man, including those at circuses, are protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which makes it an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal or fail to provide for an animal's welfare needs.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many instances of bovine TB were reported in *(a)* Pendle constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last five years. [51239]

Mr Paice: New TB incidents reported for Lancashire are as follows:

New TB incidents reported in the year 1 January to 31 December

	Number
2010	21
2009	<10
2008	<10
2007	<10
2006	<10

Source:
Vetnet—Animal Health Database (downloaded 4 April 2011).

For data protection reasons, we do not disclose figures that total less than 10, as this may lead to identification of individual cases. Data for new TB incidents in Pendle constituency are not available.

Buying Standards

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish the terms of the Government Buying Standards for *(a)* transport, *(b)* food, *(c)* furniture, *(d)* textiles, *(e)* gardening services, *(f)* water-using products and *(g)* cleaning products. [50611]

Mr Paice: The Government Buying Standards have already been published for transport, furniture, textiles, gardening (now renamed horticulture and park) services, water using products and cleaning products and services.

The new Government Buying Standards for food will be a further important step towards our ambition of being the greenest Government ever so it is important that we get them right. We have completed a thorough review of all the evidence and are now taking account of responses. We will make an announcement shortly.

Dairy Farming: Research

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has provided for research into the dairy farming sector in each of the last five years. [51237]

Mr Paice: The following table shows the funding DEFRA has provided for research into the dairy farming sector in each of the last five years for which figures are available. This includes:

Research to quantify and improve the environmental performance of dairy farming, including research on: genetic improvement of forage crops and livestock; measurement of emissions to air and water; animal nutrition, pasture and forage agronomy; and manure and slurry management. This research includes work relevant to dairy as well as other livestock sectors.

Research to improve the health and welfare of dairy cows, including research on: bovine tuberculosis (TB); uterine disease; bovine mastitis; alleviation of lameness; welfare of dairy cows in organic milk production systems; early lameness detection; welfare of continuously housed dairy cows; and identifying and characterising robust dairy cows. The TB research included, which is relevant to the whole cattle industry, does not include work on the randomised badger culling trial.

Financial year	*Research spend (£000)*
2005-06	13,959
2006-07	14,798
2007-08	14,150
2008-09	12,086
2009-10	16,340
Total	71,333

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of her Department since her appointment. [51997]

Richard Benyon: Since her appointment, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not issued any ministerial directions to the accounting officers of the Department.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts her Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50697]

Richard Benyon: The core Department had a contract with Lockheed Martin UK INSYS Ltd between 2005 and 2008 for the provision of software development and support. This contract finished in 2008 when support was no longer required.

The following list shows that no associated public bodies had any contracts with Lockheed Martin.

Animal Health
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
Rural Payments Agency
Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Food and Environment Research Agency
Marine Management Organisation
Environment Agency
Gangmasters Licensing Authority
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
National Forestry Co.
Natural England
Royal Botanical Gardens—Kew
Sustainable Development Commission
Commission for Rural Communities
Consumer Council for Water

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) she and (ii) each other Minister in her Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50193]

Richard Benyon: The ministerial car was last used in an official capacity by:

(a) the Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), on 4 April, and

(b) the Minister of State, the right hon. Member for South East Cambridgeshire (Mr Paice), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Lord Hunt, and myself on 30 March.

The Secretary of State has travelled to her constituency once in a ministerial car since May 2010, following an international trip on departmental business.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the (1) abolition of the Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees; [48623]

(2) abolition of the Advisory Committee on Organic Standards; [48624]

(3) abolition of the Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances; [48625]

(4) abolition of the Zoos Forum; [48709]

(5) abolition of the Veterinary Residues Committee; [48710]

(6) abolition of the Sustainable Development Commission; [48711]

(7) abolition of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee; [48712]

(8) abolition of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal; [48713]

(9) abolition of the Pesticide Residues Committee; [48714]

(10) abolition of the National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources; [48715]

(11) abolition of the Independent Agricultural Appeals Panel; [48716]

(12) abolition of Food from Britain. [48717]

(13) abolition of the Farm Animal Welfare Council; [48718]

(14) abolition of the Darwin Advisory Committee; [48719]

(15) abolition of Commons Commissioners; [48720]

(16) abolition of the Committee on Agricultural Valuation; [48721]

(17) abolition of the British Waterways Board; [48722]

(18) abolition of the Air Quality Expert Group; [48723]

(19) abolition of the Agricultural Wages Committees; [48724]

(20) abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales; [48725]

(21) change in function of the Agricultural Land Tribunal; [48738]

(22) change in function of the Science Advisory Council; [48773]

(23) change in function of Natural England; [48774]

(24) change in function of the National Park Authorities; [48775]

(25) change in function of the Internal Drainage Boards; [48776]

(26) change in function of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority; [48777]

(27) change in function of the Environment Agency. [48778]

Richard Benyon: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate that cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

DEFRA anticipates minimum net cumulative administrative savings resulting from abolitions or changes in functions of our public bodies over the spending review period of approximately £18.58 million which is broken down as follows:

Public body	*Savings (£ million)*
Internal Drainage Boards	0.225
Inland Waterways Advisory Committee	0.051
Agricultural Wages Boards	0.650
Commission for Rural Communities	17.654

In addition we estimate that the withdrawal of funding to the Sustainable Development Commission (which pre-dates the spending review public bodies reform process) and its abolition will save approximately £2 million per annum.

These are our best current estimates of planned net savings to emerge from these reforms and are dependent upon the individual timetables for implementation—many of which require the Public Bodies Bill and subsequent secondary legislation or discussions with the devolved administrations. Consequently, not all savings figures can be determined precisely at this stage. The following table summarises the position for each of the bodies asked about.

In addition to the savings expected from abolitions or changes in function, we anticipate that cumulative planned administrative reductions from all DEFRA's public bodies will be approximately £250.93 million over the spending review period in real terms. DEFRA published spending review allocations for its arm's length bodies alongside current baselines on our external website on 20 December 2010. These are available at:

http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/12/20/budget-allocations-101220/

Net savings from abolition or change in function of	
Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees	Expected to be less than £100,000
Advisory Committee on Organic Standards	Expected to be cost neutral
Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances	Expected to be cost neutral—body to be reconstituted
Zoos Forum	Expected to be cost neutral—body to be reconstituted
Veterinary Residues Committee	Expected to be cost neutral—body to be reconstituted
Sustainable Development Commission	Estimated at about £2 million per annum—but predates the spending review public bodies reform process.
Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee	Expected to be cost neutral—function transferring to Department of Health
Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal	Expected to be cost neutral—function transferring to Ministry of Justice
Pesticide Residues Committee	Expected to be cost neutral—body to be reconstituted
National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources	Expected to be cost neutral—body to be reconstituted
Independent Agricultural Appeals Panel	IAAP is being retained.
Food from Britain	Expected to be less than £100,000
Farm Animal Welfare Council	Expected to be cost neutral—body to be reconstituted
Darwin Advisory Committee	Expected to be cost neutral—body to be reconstituted
Commons Commissioners	Expected to be less than £100,000
Committee on Agricultural Valuation	£0—Body is inactive
British Waterways Board	To be determined
Air Quality Expert Group	Expected to be cost neutral—body to be reconstituted
Agricultural Wages Committees	Expected to be less than £100,000
Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales	£650,000
Agricultural Land Tribunal	Expected to be cost neutral—function transferring to Ministry of Justice
Science Advisory Council	Expected to be cost neutral
Natural England	Savings through spending review
National Park Authorities	Savings through spending review
Internal Drainage Boards	£225,000
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	Savings through spending review
Environment Agency	Savings through spending review

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department last travelled by (i) London underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) she and (B) each other Minister in her Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [50088]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA Ministers regularly use public transport on official Government business and since May 2010 the Department has reduced the number of ministerial cars from three to one. We do not keep records of individual journeys made by public transport. The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of her ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by her Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50171]

Richard Benyon: The Minister of State, the right hon. Member for South East Cambridgeshire (Mr Paice), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Lord Hunt, and I have all been issued with pay as you go Oyster cards. None of the ministerial team have been issued with monthly or annual travel cards for London Transport paid for by the Department.

There were three ministerial cars whereas now there is only one, and prior to May 2010 only one member of the ministerial team had an Oyster card issued by the Department whereas now three do.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50213]

Richard Benyon: The following has been spent on ministerial travel since May 2010:

Mode of transport	*Total spend since May 2010 (£)*
Ministerial car	101,708.60
Train	9,699.42
Bus	0
Commercial aircraft	16,804.16

Mode of transport	*Total spend since May 2010 (£)*
Private aircraft	0

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the health of pedigree dogs is prioritised rather than any breed confirmation. [52114]

Mr Paice: I understand that some people have concerns about the health of pedigree dogs. An independent Dog Advisory Council was recently set up, under the chairmanship of Professor Sheila Crispin, to work with key dog interest groups such as the Kennel Club and Dogs Trust, to try and tackle problems associated with genetic defects in pedigree dogs. The Government will of course consider any recommendations that the Dog Advisory Council makes.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with the Dog Advisory Council (DAC); what progress the DAC has made on its work on health problems in dogs in the last six months; and if she will make a statement. [52115]

Mr Paice: Lord Henley attended the inaugural meeting of the Dog Advisory Council on 8 December and the Council recently forwarded its programme of work for 2011. There is also frequent contact between officials and the Chair of the Council. As the Council is an independent body, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on progress, but as the hon. Member knows, the Council has only just been formed and is looking into complex matters.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to her Department has been of its study into the effect of pet training aids on the welfare of domestic dogs. [52498]

Mr Paice: Research into the welfare of dogs trained with pet training aids was commissioned by the previous Government in September 2007 and is due to complete in June 2011. The cost of that research was £538,925.

E.ON UK: Incinerators

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requests the Environment Agency has received for an environmental impact assessment of the proposal by E.ON for a waste incineration facility at Harper Lane, Radlett. [51181]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency (EA) was consulted by Hertfordshire county council on a formal scoping opinion for an environment impact assessment (as defined by the EIA regulations) at Harper Lane on 27 October 2010. The EA provided a written response to the scoping report on 22 November 2010.

The EA's key concern is Harper Lane's proximity to two public drinking water abstraction sites; it considers that the operation of an incinerator in this location would pose an unacceptable risk to these groundwater resources.

Farmers

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the level of modulation rates paid by farmers; and if she will make a statement. [50397]

Mr Paice: The rates of modulation between Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 paid by farmers are fixed for the period of the current financial perspective, 2007-2013, and we do not expect them to be further reviewed in advance of the upcoming negotiations on the common agricultural policy for the next seven year financial framework, 2014-20.

Farmers: Single Payment Scheme

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on the Single Payment scheme, what steps are being taken to support farmers facing delays in payments from the Single Payment scheme. [49609]

Mr Paice: The further written statement which I made on 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, explains the decisions that have been taken, including the use of manually validated payments, to speed up the flow of the remaining payments under the 2010 Single Payment scheme. Manual payments have already been made on a number of hardship cases referred to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) by farming charities and farmer representative bodies and this facility will continue. In order to assist business planning, RPA is also now writing to those farmers who have not been paid to date to advise them of the month in which payment is expected to be paid. Additionally I have written to the banks asking them to alert their staff to the situation and asking them to be understanding in meeting reasonable requests for assistance.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the phasing out of environmentally-harmful subsidies available through the European Fisheries Fund. [52521]

Richard Benyon: Direct subsidies to fishermen can undermine attempts to deliver sustainable fisheries, and lead to unintended environmental harm. As stated in the UK response to the Commission's Green Paper on Common Fisheries Policy reform, our view is that both policy makers and industry should aim to phase out permanent fisheries subsidies at both EU and international level. However, we do recognise that to achieve sustainable fisheries there may be a role for adaptation support.

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) is intended to help secure a sustainable and profitable fishing industry in line with the objectives of the common fisheries policy. In the UK the fund is used to support an industry that is both environmentally and economically sustainable and well managed in line with policies for the protection of the marine and freshwater environment. All applications for funding under the EFF are closely scrutinised and assessed before they are approved to ensure they meet the criteria laid down in the EU regulations and adhere to the UK's strategic and operational programmes for implementing and delivering the scheme.

Fisheries: Discards

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will have further discussions on fish discards with the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. [51448]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister, I lead on discussions with our European counterparts on the discarding of fish.

The reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP) is key to solving this problem and we will work hard to influence, and shape, the policy. Further to the high level meeting of 1 March, I will be seeking any suitable opportunity for discussion with the commissioner on discards within the context of the CFP reforms.

Forests

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the composition of her Department's Independent Panel on Forestry was determined. [51709]

Mr Paice: The Panel and Chair were chosen by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who considered a wide range of names. In deciding on the membership of the Panel, the Secretary of State felt that the Panel should be small so that it can operate effectively in a focussed manner. The individuals were chosen for the knowledge and experience they could bring to the Panel, not for the organisations to which they may belong. The terms of reference make it clear that we expect the Panel to engage the widest possible range of views.

Forests: Dogs

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration she gave to appointing a representative of dog walkers to the Independent Panel on Forestry Policy. [51299]

Mr Paice: The panel and chair were chosen by the Secretary of State who considered a wide range of names. It is important that the panel has a broad range of experience and expertise. In deciding on the membership of the panel, the Secretary of State felt that the panel should be small so that it can operate effectively in a focused manner. It is not a panel of delegates from interested organisations but of individuals bringing their own knowledge and experience. The terms of reference make it clear that we expect the panel to engage the widest possible range of views.

Forests: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the sale of publicly-owned forests in Kent. [51311]

Mr Paice: All new sales of public forest estate were suspended from 17 February 2011. We will decide on the level of any future sales and the conditions to be attached to them only once we have received and considered the advice from the Independent Panel on Forestry.

Frogspawn

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on measures to protect the habitat of frogspawn. [50592]

Richard Benyon: Frogs make use of a wide range of waterbodies for spawning. Between 2005 and 2010 agri-environment schemes provided over £7.5 million for a range of different pond creation and restoration schemes on farmland. The Million Ponds Project co-ordinated by Pond Conservation in association with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation is creating 5,000 ponds between 2008 and 2012, with 1,429 clean water ponds created by 2010.

Genetically Modified Crops

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the authorisation of trials for the planting of genetically modified crops. [51287]

Mr Paice: EU legislation provides for trials of genetically modified (GM) crops to be authorised at member state level if a robust assessment indicates that human health and the environment will not be compromised. The Government support this evidence-based approach, and receive advice on proposed GM trial releases from an independent committee of scientific experts.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Animal Feed

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture of alterations in the feedstuffs provided to livestock. [51065]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has funded research to investigate the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from livestock by dietary and nutritional control. These studies have showed that feeding ruminant livestock foods such as maize silage, naked oats and higher sugar grasses can reduce the amount of methane they produce.

Research carried out by Reading University and the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS), under projects commissioned by DEFRA in January 2005 and April 2007, showed that it is nutritionally possible to reduce nitrogen excretion from cattle and sheep and their methane emissions. For example, increasing the proportion of maize silage from 25 to 75% in a short-term trial was found to reduce methane emission per kg milk by 6%; high-sugar grasses could reduce an animal's methane emissions by 20% for every kilo of weight gain; naked oats could reduce methane emissions from sheep by 33%; and crushed rapeseed could reduce methane production from dairy cows by 20% per litre of milk produced. In the longer term, the benefits gained by changing animals' diets will need to be considered against other environmental impacts, as well as how practical or costly they are for the farming industry to implement.

Horse Passports

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations implemented arrangements for horse passports; and what objectives were set for the effects of the introduction of such passports at the time of their implementation. [49373]

Mr Paice: The Horse Passports Regulations 2009 apply in England and implement the requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008. These regulations are intended to assure the safety of horse meat for human consumption.

Snares

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of her Department is on the introduction of a ban on snares. [47835]

Mr Paice: The DEFRA Code of Practice on the Use of Snares in Fox and Rabbit Control in England gives guidance on the responsible use of snares. DEFRA has no plans to introduce a ban on snares.

Incinerators

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had discussions with the Environment Agency on steps to ensure public consultation prior to granting an environmental permit for an incinerator. [50961]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State has had no such discussions. The Environment Agency regulates incinerators under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. An environmental permit will not be issued if a proposal presents a significant risk to the environment or human health.

The Environment Agency advertises environmental permit applications on its website and notifies bodies with which it has "Working Together Agreements". Where the Environment Agency identifies a site as being of high public interest, it goes to extra lengths to make the public aware of the application and hear views. This is carried out in line with the Environment Agency's statutory Public Participation Statement. Comments received during consultation are considered as part of the determination process. The Environment Agency then publishes its draft decision, with an explanation of how it was reached. Further comments are taken into account during this second consultation period, before a final decision is issued.

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on human health of the release of *(a)* dioxins, *(b)* nanoparticles and *(c)* other particulate matter as a result of waste incineration energy facilities; and what research she has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on this issue. [51370]

Richard Benyon: In 2009 the Health Protection Agency reviewed scientific evidence on the health effects of modern municipal waste incinerators. Its report, which is available on the HPA website, concluded that while it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects completely, any potential damage from modern, well run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable.

The report also concluded that further studies of public health around individual incinerators were not scientifically justifiable. No further research has been commissioned.

Independent Panel on Forestry: Meetings

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what date she expects the Independent Panel on Forestry to hold its first meeting; and on what dates the panel's subsequent meetings are scheduled to take place; [51170]

(2) if she will require the forestry panel to publish agendas in advance of its meetings. [51331]

Mr Paice: The panel had its first meeting on 31 March and is making arrangements for subsequent meetings. All dates will be published on the panel's web pages which can be found on DEFRA's website.

The terms of reference are clear that we expect the panel to engage and take evidence from the widest range of views and interests. It is for the panel to decide what information it publishes as part of this engagement.

Dragonflies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on measures to protect the dragonfly population. [50591]

Richard Benyon: Two species of dragonflies, the southern damselfly and the Norfolk hawker, are listed on section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the priority species list) and are receiving special attention through biodiversity action plans. Action for the southern damselfly is led by the Environment Agency and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and action for the Norfolk hawker is led by the British Dragonfly Society. Both have received support from Natural England.

In addition to this, 108 sites of special scientific interest have outstanding dragonfly species assemblages as one of their notified features. Dragonflies are associated with a wide range of permanent and temporary ponds and water bodies. Action to deliver enhanced wetlands through biodiversity action plans and to create or restore ponds under agri-environment schemes are also expected to benefit dragonfly populations. Ponds are also being created through the Million Ponds Project co-ordinated by Pond Conservation in association with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and part funded by Natural England. Phase I of that project, from 2008-12, is creating 5,000 ponds.

Livestock: Air Pollution

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce methane emissions from cows; what assessment she has made of the effects on levels of methane emitted by cows of feeding cows linseed; and if she will make a statement. [51238]

Mr Paice: On 4 April the English farming industry published its Greenhouse Gas Action Plan, which outlines how the industry can reduce on-farm emissions through resource-efficient practices; this includes reducing methane emissions from livestock.

Encouraged by DEFRA, the industry is also working hard to implement the dairy and beef and sheep sector roadmaps that aim to reduce the environmental impacts of milk and beef production, including methane emissions. DEFRA and the devolved Administrations are investing £12.6 million in the UK agriculture greenhouse gas (GHG) research and development platform to improve our agricultural GHG inventory. Work will be undertaken to assess the effects of feeding extruded linseed on methane emissions from dairy cows. DEFRA has also funded research to investigate the potential of reducing GHG emissions from livestock by other dietary and nutritional controls. These studies have shown that feeding ruminant livestock foods such as maize silage, naked oats and higher sugar grasses can reduce the amount of methane they produce.

Livestock: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for offences relating to the welfare of farm animals have *(a)* been brought and *(b)* resulted in convictions in each of the last three years. [52098]

Mr Paice: The following table lists the numbers of prosecutions and convictions under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. It is not possible to separately identify farm and non-farm animals. Centralised records of offences under secondary legislation such as the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 are not recorded.

	Prosecutions initiated	*Convictions achieved*
2008	77	63
2009	78	54
2010	59	22

Source:
Formal enforcement actions recorded and supplied to the Department by local authorities using DEFRA form AH134 and the Animal Health and Welfare Management and Enforcement Database (AMES).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded on any relationship between standards in animal welfare and the profitability of farming businesses. [52101]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's approach to determining the relationship between standards in animal welfare and the profitability of farming businesses is to include cost-benefit analyses within research projects. This approach allows any costs to business resulting from a change in animal management to be assessed against the benefits to business and to the animals.

This approach is used for all types of welfare projects, from those dealing with on-farm management to those examining the welfare of animals at slaughter.

Local Government

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on that Department's review of statutory duties placed on local government. [50378]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and DCLG Secretaries of State meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest to their Departments. Discussions would include the work that Departments are doing to promote the devolution of power to local government and remove unnecessary burdens and restrictions. There have been no meetings specifically on the review of statutory duties placed on local government.

All Government Departments, which place responsibilities on local government, have agreed to contribute to the review and officials have been working closely together as a first step towards identifying these statutory duties. An initial draft list, including the duties identified so far by DEFRA, was published and a copy placed in the Library of the House on 7 March 2011.

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions she has had with the food industry on *(a)* labelling and *(b)* point of sale information for halal meat; [51720]

(2) with which *(a)* representatives and *(b)* organisations of the food industry she has had recent discussions on the labelling of halal and kosher meat; and what points were covered in those discussions. [51898]

Mr Paice: Since mid-2010 a number of meetings have taken place at which method of slaughter labelling was discussed. These have involved the British Retail Consortium, chief executives and senior representatives of the main grocery retailers, the British Hospitality Association, the British Services Association, the British Meat Processors Association, Dairy UK and the Food and Drink Federation.

In addition, meetings have also taken place to discuss (i) the welfare of animals during religious slaughter, (ii) implementation of EU Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at killing and (iii) method of slaughter labelling have also taken place with or involving Shechita UK, organisations representing the Muslim Community, halal certifying bodies and halal meat producers, the British Meat Processors Association, the Association of Independent Meat Suppliers, the British

Veterinary Association, the Humane Slaughter Association, the Veterinary Public Health Association and the Food Standards Agency.

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the labelling of halal and kosher meat. [51900]

Mr Paice: There is no requirement to label meat as halal or kosher. However, where meat is labelled as halal or kosher voluntarily, this must not mislead the consumer and information provided on the label or in the presentation of a food must not be false or misleading.

We are aware that some people would like to have more information about the methods used to slaughter animals. However, this is a difficult, complex and sensitive issue that cannot easily be resolved in view of the many competing interests involved. We will be looking at this further, but will need to consider any approach to labelling carefully in the context of EU labelling legislation and welfare requirements.

Milk Prices

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of *(a)* the average price of a litre of milk in supermarkets, *(b)* the average price of a litre of milk paid to farmers and *(c)* the average cost of production of a litre of milk in the latest period for which figures are available. [47671]

Mr Paice: Several major supermarkets currently sell a four-pint polybottle for £1.25, which represents a price of 55 pence per litre (ppl). Some currently offer two four-pint polybottles for £2, which represents a price of 44 ppl.

The UK January 2011 average farm-gate price (the most recent available) was 25.72 ppl. This is 4.25% higher than January 2010. There is a wide variation in farm-gate prices.

DEFRA has estimated the following costs[1] of milk production for 2009-10 using data from the Farm Business Survey in England[2]. These estimates are representative of the vast majority of milk produced in England and will include a small proportion of organic production. The average cost of production was around 22.5 ppl.

[1] The costs included in this analysis cover fixed and variable costs and imputed charges for unpaid labour and an imputed rent on owned land. Some of the costs are allocated to the dairy enterprise by arithmetic estimation rather than directly from the farm's accounts.

[2] The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

Cost of production	*Proportion of milk produced under these costs in 2009-10 (percentage)*
Less than 20 ppl	22
20 ppl to less than 22.5 ppl	25
22.5 ppl to less than 25 ppl	27
More than 25 ppl	26

Source:
Farm Business Survey, England 2009-10.

National Forest Company

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many hectares of woodland have been created by the National Forest Company in each of the last four years; [51838]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of hectares of woodland which will be created by the National Forest Company in each of the next four years. [51839]

Mr Paice: The National Forest Company has created the following amounts of woodland over the last four years:

	Hectares
2010-11	195
2009-10	204
2008-09	121
2007-08	119

In 2011-12 the National Forest Company estimates that it will create 150 hectares of woodland, and in the three years following it expects to plant in the range of 150 to 175 hectares.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made on the potential merger between the National Forest Company and Heart of the National Forest Foundation. [51840]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has no plans for a merger between the National Forest Company and the National Forest Charitable Trust (the renamed Heart of the National Forest Foundation). There is, however, strengthened joint working on fundraising which will continue into the future. The National Forest Company continues to be the body which creates the National Forest.

National Parks

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the ownership and management of National Park land in England. [43419]

Richard Benyon: Each National Park has a management plan which sets out the long-term goals for that National Park. However, management of individual areas of land is a matter for the individual land owner or manager, complying with grant conditions where they have chosen to enter into an agri-environment agreement. National Park authorities only exceptionally own land themselves.

Pesticides

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will commission a comparative study of the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on the grooming behaviour of *(a)* termites and *(b)* bees. [50755]

Mr Paice: The Government are focused on ensuring that pesticides do not harm people and the environment, including bee populations. A comparative study of grooming behaviour in bees and termites is not needed for these purposes.

Under European legislation, pesticide active substances are evaluated at EU level according to specific data requirements. For bees, a fundamental need is to consider potential impacts on the overall performance of the population and a new data requirement will be introduced on the impact of neonicotinoid insecticides on overwintering bee populations. The need for this was fully supported by the UK and is in line with advice from pesticide regulatory scientists and the independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides following review of the 2009 Buglife report.

Effects of insecticides on grooming behaviour are not currently a standard data requirement in the regulatory process, and have not been identified as a requirement in the revised regime to be introduced shortly by Council Regulation 1107/2009.

The Government will continue to be vigilant in understanding and tackling the various factors that may adversely affect pollinator-populations. Regulatory scientists continue to examine any published studies relevant to this area and to work with other pesticide regulators and in international forums as appropriate. We are carrying out relevant research and, where possible, areas for future research are identified, these will be considered for funding alongside other research priorities.

Bees: Pollinators

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will establish a national monitoring system for pollinators and pollinating rates. [51053]

Mr Paice: Data on honey bees is collected through the National Bee Unit. The Government supports a wide range of surveillance of wild insect populations, including pollinators, mostly undertaken by the voluntary sector. We have funded work by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to draw this surveillance data together to identify trend patterns and trends in pollinating insects and to develop means of detecting changes in pollinator services. There are a number of challenges in this, but tools such as the National Ecosystem Assessment and the Countryside Survey give us a basis on which to build. The Government currently has no plans to establish a national monitoring system specifically for pollinators and pollination rates.

Bees: Pesticides

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research into the effects of neonicotinoids on bees and other invertebrate pollinators has been completed by the Wildlife Incident Investigation scheme. [51054]

Mr Paice: The Wildlife Incident Investigation scheme (WIIS) investigates cases reported to Government that may involve pesticide poisoning. Typically 400 cases are submitted annually with about 30% of these eventually being determined to be pesticide poisoning incidents. On average there are 32 cases per year involving either honey bees, feral bees or bumble bees and of these around 11 (30%) are determined to be pesticide poisoning cases.

Residues of imidacloprid (a neonicotinoid insecticide) were first detected in bees in a single case during 2009. Preliminary analysis of 2010 data from England, Scotland and Wales indicates there were five WIIS cases involving the detection of two different neonicotinoids (imidacloprid and thiacloprid) either singly or in combination with other pesticides in bees. Given the nature of the WIIS, conclusions, in .terms of trends cannot be drawn from such small numbers, particularly as more sensitive analytical methods have recently been introduced.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent on research into pesticides and pollinators in financial year (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and how much such funding will be allocated in financial year 2011-12. [51055]

Mr Paice: In order to provide maximum flexibility to respond to identified research needs funding within DEFRA's pesticides research programme is not allocated to particular areas. DEFRA has spent or committed the following amounts on research specifically into pesticides and pollinators: (i) 2009-10 £16,000, (ii) 2010-11 £227,000, and expects to spend at least £139,000 in this area in 2011-12. In addition, spending on honey bee research is as follows:

	£
2009-10	498,000
2010-11	[1]632,000
2011-12	[1, 2]595,500

[1] The figures for 2010-11 and 2011-12 include the £500,000 per year that DEFRA is contributing to the Insect Pollinators Initiative (IPI) over the next five years which includes research on both honey and bumble bees. The IPI is a £10 million programme established in 2009 to support research to better understand the importance of insect pollinators in the UK as well as threats to them and their management needs. Although much of the funding is directed to honey bee research, there are some research projects on bumblebee ecology or on insect pollinators in general. One of the nine projects is looking at the synergistic impact of sub-lethal exposure to industrial chemicals on the learning capacity and performance of bees.

[2] Estimated.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will bring forward proposals to restrict immediately the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in the UK; [51046]

(2) what assessment she has made of potential links between neonicotinoid use and honey bee performance; and what recent field studies have assessed the effects of systemic pesticides on honey bee performance; [51048]

(3) what assessment she has made of potential links between the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and bee colony collapse disorder; and what scientific evidence she took into account in making this assessment; [51049]

(4) if she will introduce a moratorium on the use of neonicotinoids on plants which provide nectar and pollen; [51052]

(5) when Ministers in her Department last met the Advisory Committee on Pesticides; and what the outcome of that meeting was; [51056]

(6) when she expects the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate Advisory Committee on Pesticides to complete its review of the report by Buglife on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides; and if she will publish the review upon completion; [51074]

(7) if she will *(a)* suspend existing outdoor approvals for the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and *(b)* commission a review of the use of systemic pesticides and sub-lethal effects on invertebrates. [51075]

Mr Paice: Neonicotinoid pesticides are already subject to restrictions made to reduce the potential risk they pose to bees. Neonicotinoid insecticides are authorised through the rigorous EU pesticides approval process. Products are authorised in the UK after a national risk assessment. The Government have regularly considered the available evidence in this area and I see no basis for further restrictions at this stage. The position will-be kept under review in the light of continuing scrutiny of new research and discussions with other regulatory authorities. The 2009 Buglife report was reviewed by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive for any new scientific information which might be of relevance for the pesticides risk assessment process, and CRD's assessment was considered by the independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP). Ministers receive advice from the ACP on pesticides issues but do not routinely meet the Committee. The CRD assessment and ACP comments have been published on the CRD website. The review highlighted a need for data on the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides on overwintering of bees in the risk assessment process. This issue had already been identified by regulators and is being addressed through changes to the EU regulatory system. Some pesticide approval holders are already carrying out work to develop field data on overwintering effects of neonicotinoid insecticides on bees as part of the pesticides approval process. CRD has already assessed one such study, and for the crop/pesticide concerned this indicated that there are no effects on honey bees and honey bee survival.

The term 'colony collapse disorder (CCD)' has been used to describe high levels of abnormal colony losses in the USA. Although there have been some significant losses in the UK in recent years, there is no evidence to suggest that CCD is present. Indeed, there has been a significant reduction in the number of colonies that have been lost. In 2010, 5.8% of colonies inspected in England and Wales were found to be dead compared to 6.9% in 2009. Last year's losses were also the lowest level since 2001.

Pesticides: Water

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the levels of neonicotinoids in bodies of water; and with what regularity such levels are monitored. [51051]

Mr Paice: The pesticides risk assessment considers the risk to groundwater and surface water for each product and use and the surface water assessment specifically looks at the risk to aquatic life. This assessment does not suggest that there should be a significant issue from neonicotinoid pesticides. That conclusion is not challenged by existing Environment Agency monitoring which tests for a range of pesticides in surface and ground water. This monitoring includes imidacloprid and clothianidin and has not detected any residues of these two neonicotinoids (although it would be unlikely to detect residues at the low levels expected). There does not appear to be a need for further targeted monitoring of neonicotinoid pesticides in water bodies.

Poultry: EU Action

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency plans her Department has put in place to ensure that compliance with EU Council Directive 99/74/EC on the Welfare of Laying Hens does not put farms in England at a commercial disadvantage. [51045]

Mr Paice: I have repeatedly stated that we want to protect compliant producers from any competitive disadvantage of illegal production in other member states or indeed the UK. In a letter to the Commission in September last year and at a meeting with Commissioner Dalli in November, I strongly urged the Commission to put sufficient enforcement controls in place to protect compliant producers.

One of the options we have suggested to the Commission is for an intra- Community trade ban which would restrict the sale of eggs and egg products which continue to be produced from conventional cages after 2012 from being exported outside that member state's border.

I also raised my concerns on the lack of action by the Commission at the EFRA inquiry into the laying hen industry evidence session on 22 March, and stressed the need for additional measures to be put in place at an EU level to prevent market disturbance.

We welcome the efforts the UK laying hen industry has made to comply with the ban and I can assure you that the Government will continue to work closely with the Commission, other member states and the industry to find a practical enforcement solution.

Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 807W, on public appointments, for what reasons the answer referred to a website address that is not operational; and how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men no longer hold appointments in public bodies sponsored by her Department as a result of decisions to merge, close or reorganise such bodies taken since her appointment. [51445]

Richard Benyon: The website address in the previous answer provides a link to "Public Bodies 2009". This contains the latest published summary information on public appointments. In addition, I can confirm that since the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was appointed, the numbers of women and men no longer holding public appointments as a result of decisions to merge, close or reorganise bodies sponsored by her Department are as follows:

Commons Commissioners: Two men.

Sustainable Development Commission: Five women and seven men.

Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution: Five women and seven men.

Recycling

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to aid local authorities in setting recycling targets which were formerly set by the regional spatial strategies. [50575]

Richard Benyon: Regional spatial strategies did not specifically provide a mechanism for supporting the setting of recycling targets for local authorities. Under the local government performance framework, for which 2010-11 was the last year, some local authorities chose to set recycling targets in negotiation with the relevant Government office as part of local area agreements.

The revised waste framework directive sets the UK a target of recycling 50% of waste from households by 2020. While this sets an overall ambition for the UK, the Government do not intend to pass this target on to local authorities on an individual basis. The current review of waste policies being conducted by the Government will set out the framework of support we want to give to local authorities to manage waste more sustainably. However, it is for local authorities to decide what aspirations on recycling are appropriate for their area depending on their wider waste management goals and individual circumstances.

Rural Areas: Gun Sports

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the contribution of shooting to *(a)* conservation and *(b)* the rural economy. [51066]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has no plans to assess the benefits of shooting to conservation or to the rural economy. A report, 'The Economic and Environmental Impact of Sporting Shooting', prepared by Public and Corporate Economic Consultants in 2006, found that two million hectares are actively managed for conservation as a result of shooting and that shooting is worth £1.6 billion to the UK economy. The report can be viewed at:

www.shootingfacts.co.uk

Shooting: Lead Shot

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made a recent assessment of the adequacy of legislation on the use of lead shot; and if she will have discussions with representatives of the shooting community on this issue. [47565]

Mr Paice: In 2008 DEFRA commissioned a project to provide an assessment of the level of compliance with the Environmental Protection (Restriction of the Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999 (as amended). The report was produced by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust with some elements of the work completed by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. The final report for the project was published in November 2010 and is available on the DEFRA website.

This report will be brought to the attention of the Lead Ammunition Group for its consideration. The Lead Ammunition Group is an independent strategic group convened by DEFRA and the Food Standards Agency which brings together relevant stakeholders and experts to advise Government on, among other issues, the key risks to wildlife from lead ammunition and the respective levels of those risks. It will also explore possible solutions to any significant risks.

Sow Stalls

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on implementation of the EU directive prohibiting tethering at sow stalls. [50318]

Mr Paice: There have been no EU discussions at ministerial level as yet. However, the UK continues to make clear at European level that the UK industry is already fully compliant with the ban on sow stalls. We have also made it clear that we expect full compliance in other member states by 1 January 2013. The UK along with the rest of the EU banned the use of tethers in 2006.

Supermarkets

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had any meetings since September 2010 with representatives from *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* Sainsbury's, *(c)* Asda, *(d)* Morrisons and *(e)* trade associations of which these companies are members. [52228]

Mr Paice: On 27 September 2010, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs met with Sainsbury's as well as attending the Policy Issues Council of the Institute of Grocery Distribution which includes in its membership many of the large supermarkets. On 10 February she met with Tesco. On 8 March she met with the British Retail Consortium.

On 4 April she chaired a meeting with senior representatives of a number of the retailers at which Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Morrisons were represented.

Sustainable Development

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what criteria she plans to adopt to measure the effectiveness of the operation of the presumption in favour of sustainable development in the planning system' [50317]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the definition of the sustainable development presumption to be introduced into the planning system. [50319]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is in continuing discussion with the Department for Communities and Local Government about the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The Government will publish a draft of the presumption in May 2011, alongside details of how we propose to integrate the presumption into national planning policy.

We will be considering how best to gauge the effectiveness of the presumption during the further work to develop the National Planning Policy Framework.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the compatibility of her criteria for monitoring sustainable development across government with the statutory responsibilities of environmental protection placed on *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* Natural England. [51043]

Mr Paice: None as yet, but we shall take such statutory responsibilities into consideration, alongside other relevant factors, as we develop criteria for monitoring the mainstreaming of sustainable development across Government.

Utilities: Concessions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many utility companies offer concessionary schemes for surface water drainage charges for community organisations; and how many community organisations are using such schemes. [50638]

Richard Benyon: Four water and sewerage companies charge for surface water drainage by reference to the impermeable surface area of the site being drained:

United Utilities;
Severn Trent Water;
Northumbrian Water; and
Yorkshire Water.

Two of these companies offer concessionary schemes for community organisations.

United Utilities has 3,314 customers on concessionary charges.

Severn Trent Water currently caps the surface water drainage charges for community premises and charges places of worship on the basis of rateable value, which in most cases is zero. Severn Trent does not know the number of customers that currently benefit from these charges. It will investigate this and assess the costs before consulting its customers on permanent concessions for these groups under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Northumbrian Water started its concessionary scheme on 1 April 2011 and expects to accept 1,768 customers onto the scheme during this charging year.

Waste Management

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to ensure co-ordination between communities on waste management. [50466]

Richard Benyon: Local authorities, which are responsible for the provision of waste management services, are best placed to make decisions about collection and disposal, taking into account the needs of their residents and local circumstances.

DEFRA encourages local authorities to share best practice on waste management, and to work together in partnership; this can help them make economies which enable them to provide better services.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to aid local authorities in identifying shortfalls in waste treatment capacity which were formerly identified by regional spatial strategies. [50574]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

Regional strategies are part of the statutory 'development plan'. When preparing waste plans, local planning authorities should have regard to national policy, including Planning Policy Statement 10: 'Sustainable Waste Management'. Notwithstanding, the Government's abolition of regional strategies via the Localism Bill is a material consideration in planning decisions.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to provide apportionment figures on the tonnages of municipal, commercial and industrial wastes to be planned for annually by each local authority which were formerly specified within the regional spatial strategies. [50576]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

Regional strategies are part of the statutory 'development plan'. When preparing waste plans, local planning authorities should have regard to Planning Policy Statement 10: Sustainable Waste Management, which requires them to allocate sites and areas suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities to support the apportionment set out in the regional strategy. The Government's abolition of regional strategies via the Localism Bill is a material consideration in planning decisions.

Water

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure sufficient investment in water resources in cases where local development frameworks do not refer to water and drainage infrastructure because they were formerly covered in the regional spatial strategies. [50364]

Richard Benyon: The Localism Bill will abolish Regional Strategies and introduce a Duty to Co-operate, which will require local planning authorities and public bodies to engage constructively and on an ongoing basis to prepare local plans.

In the spirit of partnership working we expect local planning authorities to collaborate with infrastructure providers from an early stage in the local planning process to ensure that they are actively involved in shaping proposals. Water companies are statutory consultees to local plans in the current system, and are able to feed in their views on local plan growth from a water infrastructure perspective. We would want this to continue in the future.

All water undertakers in England produce statutory 25-year Water, Resources Management Plans (WRMPs) that identify how they will ensure a secure and sustainable supply of water. In developing these plans water undertakers will have access to information on growth from the local plans in their areas. The public consultation process for WRMPs provides a means by which water undertakers and planning authorities may validate forecast growth and future needs.

Since October 2010 unitary and county councils have been given a new role as lead local flood authorities (LLFAs), and a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act to have local flood risk management strategies for their areas. We would expect these strategies to consider drainage for new developments, and for LLFAs to work with water undertakers and developers to ensure that arrangements are adequate and sustainable. The Local Government Association has recently published guidance to help LLFAs develop their strategies. We expect LLFAs will begin to publish their strategies in 2012 and there is a requirement that relevant authorities and the public should be consulted about them. LLFAs across England have also been provided with funding of £21 million for 2011-12, rising to £36 million in 2012-13, to undertake their new roles.

Water Charges: South West England

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 581W, on water charges: South West England, what options for additional Government spending to provide further support for water customers in the South West her Department is considering; if she will publish details of each option; what discussions she has had with Ofwat on such options; if she will make it her policy to limit the financial support offered; if she will assess the effect of the proposal on other water customers in England; whether she is considering similar schemes for other regions of England; what timetable she has set for the *(a)* introduction and *(b)* duration of the scheme; and whether water companies will be expected to contribute to the cost of the scheme. [52241]

Richard Benyon: The Government published their consultation on water affordability on 5 April. This an be accessed online at:

www.defra.gov.uk/consult/water-affordability-1104/

and copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The consultation paper sets out options to assist all households in the South West (to reflect the unique circumstances of South West Water at the time of privatisation), and options to assist households with water affordability problems in the south-west and elsewhere, it takes account of advice prepared by Ofwat on tackling high water bills in the south-west.

The options set out in the consultation paper to assist household customers of South West Water will have no impact on other water companies, or on the water bills of other companies' customers. Additional support will be provided through public expenditure. The extent, magnitude and duration of that support will depend on practicality and affordability, and on the responses received to the consultation.

The Government will set out their policy proposals in their Water White Paper in the autumn.

Water Charges: Public Consultation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish the consultation on the Walker Review on household water metering and charging; and if she will make a statement. [52091]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 54WS.

Water Supply

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has assessed the merits of encouraging water companies to offer cold water retrofits as part of the forthcoming Water White Paper; and if she will make a statement. [52092]

Richard Benyon: Water companies already offer retrofit measures as part of their statutory duty to promote the efficient use of water by their customers. Ofwat oversees the companies' obligations in this regard, and has also set them water efficiency targets, representing a significant increase in water efficiency activity.

The Government will set out their policy proposals around water efficiency in the forthcoming Water White Paper.

Water Supply: Competition

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to increase the level of choice between water companies for household customers. [51942]

Richard Benyon: The forthcoming Water White Paper will consider Professor Martin Cave's 2009 recommendations to extend competition in the water sector.

Professor Cave thought that there would be very few benefits in extending choice of water supplier to household customers at this time but did not rule it out for the future.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Departmental Pay

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 510W, on pay: staff, which actual compliance roles were used as comparators to determine the salary range for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's new compliance officer. [45793]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated April 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking which actual compliance roles were used as comparators to determine the salary range for IPSAs new compliance officer.

The Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, as amended by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, provided that there be a Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

We considered a range of vacancies being offered for Compliance Officer roles at the time we began the recruitment process in order to help us establish the range in which to advertise the salary. These vacancies were primarily in the financial sector. We did this was for indicative purposes only and, for this reason, did not consider it necessary to keep a record. These advertised salaries ranged between £70,000 and £120,000. We then sought advice from our recruitment consultants who recommended a salary range corroborating the range identified by our internal research. Having received this advice, we took the view that this range was too high (whilst taking into account the knowledge, experience and capabilities required for this statutory office) and advertised a lower rate equivalent to an IPSA Grade F position (pay band £60,000 to £73,000, full-time equivalent).

Ken Olisa

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 2W, on departmental publications, what assessment the board has made of Mr Ken Olisa's remarks. [49475]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated April 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2011, Official Report, column 2W, on departmental publications, what assessment the board has made of Mr Ken Olisa's remarks.

The Board routinely assesses IPSA's presence in the media. Any substantive discussions on matters relating to the Board can be found in the Minutes of the Board which once agreed, in keeping with IPSA's policy on transparency, are posted on IPSA's website.

Members: Allowances

Laura Sandys: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will request the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to publish the highest amount claimed by an hon. Member for staff costs over the financial year 2010-11. [51619]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated April 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking IPSA to publish the highest amount claimed by an hon. Member for staff costs over the financial year 2010-11.

Figures for the financial year 2010-11 have not yet been finalised. We will be publishing details of all Members staffing costs in July and will write to you with this information at that time.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the average number of hours he spends on his official duties per week *(a)* during Parliamentary recess periods and *(b)* when Parliament is sitting. [51657]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I spend as much time as necessary to carry out in full my official duties both when Parliament is sitting and during recess periods.

General Elections: Costs

Ian Murray: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bradford East of 4 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 636W, on general elections: costs, if he will estimate the cost of holding a general election in which 50 per cent. of voters express a second and third preference, 25 per cent. of workers express only a second preference and 25 per cent. of voters express only one preference. [52166]

Mr Harper: I have no plans to make such an estimate.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51426]

Mr Paterson: 52 Officials in my Department are provided with mobile communication devices. In the year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, the Northern Ireland Office spent £13,957 on mobile telephones and data services.

Departmental Training

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51413]

Mr Paterson: Since 12 April 2010, my Department has spent £19,440 on staff training.

Kieran Doherty

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish the report of Lord Carlile on his inquiry into the death of Kieran Doherty; and if he will make a statement. [51241]

Mr Paterson: Following the brutal murder of Kieran Doherty, I met members of his family. In light of the concerns they expressed to me, I invited Lord Carlile, as reviewer of the arrangements for handling national security-related matters in Northern Ireland, to meet them to discuss those concerns. Further, in view of allegations about the conduct of the Security Service, I asked Lord Carlile to review the case and to provide me with advice.

As the House will be aware, it has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on matters of this nature. I do not intend to depart from that practice or to publish Lord Carlile's advice to me. With his permission, however, I am placing on the record his conclusions as set out in his letter to the hon. Member.

Lord Carlile said:

> "Over the past four months I have received the fullest co-operation with my inquiry. No material has been denied to me. I am satisfied that I have been able to deal on an evidence base with all issues arising.
>
> My conclusions are clear. No inappropriate or improper action took place. Kieran Doherty's cruel death was not in any respect a consequence of any misbehaviour or infraction by anybody directly or indirectly connected with the public service. Further, the Police Service of Northern Ireland have been able to carry out a full and unimpeded murder inquiry".

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for the work he has undertaken and for his advice.

WALES

Economic Growth

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps she is taking to ensure that the Welsh economy maintains a rate of growth similar to that in the rest of the UK; and if she will make a statement. [51447]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales and I share the hon. Gentleman's concerns about the Welsh economy, which has fallen further behind the rest of the UK since devolution in 1999.

The Budget and Plan for Growth are intended to create the right conditions for private sector growth across the UK including Wales. We have reduced corporation tax by 2%, cut regulations to save businesses £350 million a year and abolished the fuel duty escalator to benefit motorists and hauliers across Wales.

Beyond that, we are committed to working with the Welsh Assembly Government on issues such as delivering Enterprise Zones. Only by putting the Welsh business environment on the similar footing to the one we are seeking to create in England can we ensure that the Welsh economy does not fall even further behind the rest of the UK.

Foreign Investment in UK

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps she is taking to support and attract investment to *(a)* mechanical engineering, *(b)* metals, *(c)* minerals, *(d)* chemicals and *(e)* business services sectors of the Welsh economy; and if she will make a statement. [51446]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales and I are committed to attracting more inward investment to Wales across a range of sectors including those the hon. Gentleman highlights.

We have brokered two trilateral meetings between Lord Green the Trade Minister and the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to discuss collaborative working, particularly as UK Trade and Investment looks to refocus its efforts on inward investment. I am also a member of the Economic Affairs (Trade and Investment) Cabinet Sub Committee which will play a key role in boosting trade and investment in the UK, including Wales.

The Secretary of State for Wales has discussed with the First Minister the creation of Enterprise Zones in Wales that we would hope would replicate those we have already announced for England. These zones will offer a time-limited business rate exemption, high speed broadband, simplified planning processes and the reinvestment of future business rates in infrastructure. They are designed to attract new investment to places that need it the most and we hope that the Welsh Assembly Government will work with us to bring these benefits to Wales.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Art Works

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department is of operating the Government Indemnity Scheme in respect of the works of art held by the Government Art Collection *(a)* on display and *(b)* in storage. [51080]

Mr Vaizey: The Government Indemnity Scheme (GIS) applies only to loans in, and only those from non-national collections or private sources. Staff time spent administering this, and therefore the operating cost, is negligible. There has never been a claim on GIS for any work loaned to the Government Art Collection.

Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the funding for the arts introduced as a result of the Lottery Shares Order can be used to support existing projects. [52162]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: This Government's reforms to the national lottery mean that from 2012 around £50 million a year extra will go to the arts. Funding decisions are a matter for the individual lottery distributors to determine against their published criteria for lottery projects and funding programmes. All lottery distributors are mindful of the need to uphold the principle of additionality in relation to national lottery funding and to account for how this principle has been upheld in their annual reports, but funding can be allocated to existing organisations.

Arts Council: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the effects of recent Arts Council funding decisions on arts organisations *(a)* in each region and *(b)* serving minority communities. [52161]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Any decisions made by the Arts Council are done so on the basis of the much-valued arm's length principle. Therefore it would be inappropriate for the Government to undermine the Arts Council's independence by interfering in their decision making process in any way.

However, when assessing applications for the new National Portfolio, Arts Council England worked to create the best mix of organisations in terms of size, type, art form, diversity, geographical spread and contribution to the goals set out in the 10-year strategy Achieving Great Art for Everyone.

Arts Council England has undertaken an equality impact assessment (EIA), to identify the potential negative and positive impact on race, gender and disability that the decisions made within the national portfolio organisations funding programme may have. As part of the EIA, an action plan detailing a full programme of mitigation outlines how they will address the identified negative impact.

Grants: Brighton and Hove

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department were available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; how much was available in such grants; how many such grants were made; and how much was awarded in such grants. [51845]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The only ring-fenced grant that the Department oversaw, and that would have been available to Brighton and Hove city council, in the periods 2007-08 to 2010-11 was the free swimming scheme that ran from 2008-09 to 2010-11. The amount of grant paid out during this period was £89 million allocated between 261 participating local authorities.

Brighton and Hove city council received the following amounts in each year:

2008-09: £76,197.00

2009-10: £205,441.68

2010-11: £67,486.00.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department are available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in 2011-12; how much is available in such grants; how many such grants have been made; and how much is to be awarded in such grants. [51850]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: From 2011-12 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has budgetary responsibility for private finance initiative (PFI) grants to local authorities for culture and sport schemes. Payments in earlier years were met by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Brighton and Hove will receive a grant of £1.5 million in 2011-12 towards PFI costs of the Jubilee Library (Brighton New Central Library). This PFI scheme runs until 2028.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport who is to be responsible for the roll-out of high-speed broadband in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland. [52157]

Mr Vaizey: Local government in England and the devolved Administrations will be the lead procuring authorities, with support from Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), for the Government supported roll-out of superfast broadband in the UK.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of households without broadband access which will receive high-speed broadband by the end of *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2014 and *(d)* 2015. [52158]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have not set annual targets of households having superfast broadband, but has set a target of having the best superfast broadband in Europe by 2015 and made £530 million available to help deliver it. We will publish the 'Best in Europe' scoreboard later in 2011.

Broadband: Enterprise Zones

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport by what mechanisms superfast broadband will be supplied to enterprise zones. [50734]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 1 April 2011]*: The Government are in discussion with Local Enterprise Partnerships about the first wave of Enterprise Zones. As specific locations for Enterprise Zones are put forward, we will consider the broadband networks available in these areas and then decide the most appropriate form of public support for market led roll-out This is likely to be through provision of the most supportive planning environment and, if necessary, public funding.

Broadband: Public Expenditure

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the funding allocated to the expansion of broadband provision announced in the comprehensive spending review he estimates will be spent in *(a)* Poole constituency and *(b)* the south-west. [50493]

John Penrose: No specific estimates of funding allocations for projects in Poole constituency, the south-west or any other constituency have been made. My officials continue to work closely with county councils on plans to support broadband roll-out.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [52001]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: There have been no ministerial directions issued to the accounting offices of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport since the appointment of the current ministerial team.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department was in each such year. [50838]

John Penrose: The total number of staff who have taken early retirement in each of the last five financial years, and the cost to the Department, are shown in the table.

Financial year	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total number of staff	6	5	2	4	5
Cost (£)	678,759	603,107	119,772	180,796	428,660

For the financial year 2010-11, further early retirement offers have been made to members of staff, however final payments have not been made and are therefore not included in the table.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51527]

John Penrose: The Department has not set any targets for job reduction. It has, however, committed to a 50% reduction in its administration budget by 31 March 2015, which includes staffing costs. The average reduction in administration budgets in the Department and its arm's lengths bodies over the comprehensive spending period is 41%.

The Department regularly monitors its pay bill and sets future actions through our Workforce Planning Committee. The Department is currently undertaking a voluntary redundancy exercise to reduce headcount and achieve the necessary savings.

Public Bodies Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 764-5W, on departmental public appointments, how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men no longer serve on public bodies sponsored by his Department because of decisions to close, merge or reorganise such bodies taken since his appointment. [51438]

John Penrose: Due to decisions to close, merge or reorganise public bodies 10 men and 10 women no longer serve on the boards of public bodies sponsored by the Department.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50222]

John Penrose: The following amounts have been accounted for by the Department for ministerial travel since May 2010:

(a) DCMS Ministers do not have the use of individual ministerial cars. Since May, £6,198.90 has been spent on cars booked for current Ministers from the Government Car and Despatch Agency pool.

(b) £3,028.20 on rail travel (including Eurostar).

(c) Bus journeys would be taken using an Oyster card and the costs cannot therefore be separately identified from London underground travel.

(d) £9,672.45 on commercial air travel.

(e) No money has been spent by the Department on travel by private aircraft.

Departmental Manpower

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51393]

John Penrose: Throughout 2010-11 there were 59 advertisements for posts within the Department. The vast majority of these posts have been filled either by staff already within the Department or by civil servants loaned from other Departments, in large part to cover the short-term staffing needs of the Government Olympic Executive (GOE). Six fixed term contractors have also been appointed over that period.

During 2011-12, GOE will see up to 50 vacancies being created for new posts to ensure the Department delivers the Government's commitment on London 2012. GOE's current work force of 110 full-time employees (FTE) is scheduled to increase to 160 by the end of Q1 2012.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51401]

John Penrose: The amount spent by the Department on recruitment agency fees, outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff, and staff training in 2010-11 can be found in the following table:

Payment type	*£*
Recruitment Agency Fees	13,200
Outplaced Agency Fees	52,500
Staff Training	429,471
Total	495,171

Tote

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to make a decision on the future of the Tote. [51908]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government hope to conclude the final stages of the process for resolving the future of the Tote and to announce the outcome later in the spring in line with the timetable set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Budget 2011.

National Lottery: Supermarkets

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will investigate the effects on small business of the level of access supermarkets have to national lottery terminals from Camelot. [51886]

John Penrose: The selection of national lottery retailers is, rightly, a commercial matter for Camelot, as it is incentivised to place the terminals where they will generate the most sales and therefore revenue for good causes. Camelot is required to apply clear criteria when selecting retailers and takes into account factors such as geographical spread to ensure access. Camelot's Stakeholder report for 2010 states that the majority of retail outlets are independent, with approximately a 60%-40% split in favour of independents.

Olympic Games 2012: Stadium

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* (i) representations and (ii) advice he received on the legality of a Premier League football club taking occupancy of the Olympic Stadium; and if he will publish each item of correspondence and advice he has received on this issue. [50878]

Hugh Robertson: The ongoing process to dispose of the Olympic Stadium, being conducted by the Olympic Park Legacy Company, is currently the subject of a legal dispute and consequently it is not appropriate to comment.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence with Newham council on the long-term use of the Olympic Stadium and the effects of such use on local sports and athletics clubs in the local area. [50879]

Hugh Robertson: Neither the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport nor I have had such discussions or correspondence with Newham council.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will *(a)* prepare and *(b)* publish an impact assessment on the effects on the local area of a Premier League football club taking ownership and residence of the Olympic Stadium; [50880]

(2) whether he has undertaken an investigation into the effects on East London sports clubs of the Olympic Stadium being occupied by a Premier League football club. [50881]

Hugh Robertson: The Department has no plans to undertake an assessment or investigation of these matters. Consideration of any relevant impacts resulting from a Premier League football club moving in to the Olympic Stadium form part of the ongoing process to dispose of the Stadium being conducted by the Olympic Park Legacy Company.

Royal Household: Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether domestic cleaning contracts for the occupied royal palaces are paid for from the grants in aid paid to the monarchy for upkeep of occupied royal palaces. [51474]

John Penrose *[holding answer 5 April 2011]:* The grant in aid paid by the Department for the upkeep of the occupied royal palaces in England includes the cost of cleaning the offices occupied by property services, fire health and safety, gardeners and postal services staff. The services are provided under a contract which was awarded following a competitive tender in October 2009. Other cleaning costs are allocated according to occupancy so that the civil list, the privy purse and the royal collection each meet an appropriate share of the total cleaning contract costs.

Smart Electricity Grid

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 424W, on the smart electricity grid, how the market will establish the communications system that will best serve the needs of the electricity system if spectrum is not made available. [51262]

Mr Vaizey: Government policy is that radio spectrum should be acquired through the market. To date, we have seen no evidence for intervention, but in the event of market failure it is open to the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to make a case for assignment.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 537W, on the smart electricity grid and the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 289-90W, on business: electricity, whether his Department plans to discuss *(a)* spectrum and *(b)* smart meters with the Department for Energy and Climate Change as part of the monitoring process. [51263]

Mr Vaizey: My officials are engaged with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on a regular basis about smart meters. DECC is fully aware of policy in regard to the allocation of radio spectrum.

Sport Clubs

Heather Wheeler: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will meet representatives of the Sport and Recreation Alliance to discuss the implications of his Department's review of the regulatory burdens on sports clubs. [51210]

Hugh Robertson: I met representatives of Sport and Recreation Alliance in March to discuss this review.

Sports: East Midlands

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward a strategic plan for water-related sport and recreation in the east midlands. [50502]

Hugh Robertson: The Environment Agency is currently working with the university of Brighton to develop 'Enjoying Water in the Midlands'—a plan for the region which will set out where new or improved water-related sport and recreation opportunities can best be placed to deliver the greatest benefits to the region and the people who live there.

Sports: Finance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the National Sports Foundation on the funding available for grass-roots sports. [50599]

Hugh Robertson: The National Sports Foundation (NSF) raised an extra £38.6 million of commercial funding for grassroots sport between April 2006 and March 2009. Funding into grassroots sport has been maintained since the closure of NSF. Sport England also match funds individual projects with commercial funding up to £100,000 through the Sportsmatch programme.

Sports: Poole

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance his Department provided to grass-roots sporting organisations in *(a)* Poole constituency and *(b)* the South West in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [50492]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England advise that in the current financial year up to 31 December 2010 no grants were awarded to the Poole constituency. The South West region was awarded £2,722,533 of Exchequer funding and £6,694,329 of National Lottery funding in the same period.

Stonehenge

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to preserve Stonehenge. [52181]

John Penrose: On 4 April 2011, the Government announced their support for a funding package which mixes private philanthropy, lottery money and commercial funding to improve the visitor experience at Stonehenge. This Department announced that English Heritage will have access to £2 million of its historic reserves raised from philanthropic sources and the Department for Transport agreed funding of around £3.5 million for improvements to Highways Agency roads close to Stonehenge, subject to the completion of statutory processes and confirmed go-ahead of the Stonehenge project.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much has been spent from the public purse on Stonehenge in each of the last five years. [52182]

John Penrose: As set out in the table, English Heritage has supplied the cost to the public purse of running Stonehenge in each of the past five years balanced against income generated from visitors. Expenditure on the Stonehenge Environmental Improvements Project over the last three years is also shown.

	Cost of running Stonehenge site (£)[1]	*Earned income (£)*[1]	*Spend on environmental improvements project (£)*
2006-07	2,329,231	5,395,202	n/a
2007-08	2,196,530	5,682,667	n/a
2008-09	2,449,923	5,906,457	694,000
2009-10	2,381,074	6,566,755	[2]2,465,000
2010-11	2,490,900	7,173,582	439,000

[1] Income and expenditure figures do not include leased maintenance costs or rents receivable related to renting the Stonehenge cottages (previously custodian accommodation) which are not part of the normal visitor operation at the site.

[2] Includes £1,000,000 grant from SW Regional Development Agency.

Taekwondo

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on Taekwondo, what his most recent assessment is when mediation may take place between UK Sport and Sport England on Taekwondo; and for what reasons the timescale for such mediation has been deferred. [51795]

Hugh Robertson: The parties to the mediation in Taekwondo are the British Taekwondo Control Board and the United Kingdom Taekwondo Development Council. The mediation is being led by an independent mediator and managed by Sport Resolutions (UK), with participation from UK Sport and Sport England when and where appropriate. The timescale is dictated by the availability of the parties concerned: an initial mediation session was held in February and follow-up communications have continued with a view to a further mediation session at a workable date for all parties and participants, potentially in May.

Betting: Taxation

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, what estimate he has made of the annual loss in betting taxation which can be attributed to companies which advertise and transact in Britain basing their remote operations offshore. [52112]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

General betting duty typically raises around £300 million to £400 million per annum. Since only UK-based bookmakers are liable for betting duty, there is no loss from overseas bookmakers that advertise and transact in the UK. However, HMRC does not record yield from remote betting separately from general betting duty, so there is no formal estimate of the impact on receipts in this area.

Tourism

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* direct and *(b)* prospective financial effects on London's hospitality and tourism businesses of the disturbances of 26 March 2011. [51223]

John Penrose: The financial effect on business resulting from the disturbances on 26 March 2011 is difficult to quantify. The Department has not yet estimated the impact on the tourism and hospitality industry in London.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an estimate of the likely increase in tourist revenue arising from the wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton. [52185]

John Penrose: The royal wedding is one of a series of major events, including Her Majesty's diamond jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics, that are being used to showcase Britain as part of VisitBritain's new four-year international marketing campaign. We have not attempted to separate out the tourism impact of each event individually, but we intend to capitalise on the huge tourism opportunity they will create by constructing a marketing fund of more than £100 million, with major companies already pledging support to help match the £50 million of public money the Government have committed through VisitBritain. The marketing campaign is aiming to deliver four million extra visitors to the UK over the four years, £2 billion in additional visitor spending and 50,000 new jobs across the country.

SCOTLAND

Children in Care

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the implementation in Scotland of his proposals for Independent Savings Accounts for looked after children. [50828]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland has regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a wide range of issues. The Government published draft regulations of a new tax-advantaged savings account or "Junior ISAs". Around 6 million children across the United Kingdom are expected to be eligible for Junior ISAs, with a further 800,000 children becoming eligible each year. On 22 March, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made clear that the Government will work with charities and interested parties to develop detailed proposals funded by the Government, so that junior ISAs can best support looked-after children, who face particular challenges.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51427]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office currently has 27 officials who have been provided with mobile communication devices. £12,757 was spent by the Department in the year 2009-10.

This figure includes the cost of equipment, call charges, line rental and service charges.

Departmental Training

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51412]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office encourages all staff to undertake learning and development activities. The majority of opportunities are provided through the Scottish Government and the Ministry of Justice; but where the training need is still not available within central Government, external training courses may be considered. £25,297 was spent on staff training in the year 2009-10.

Enterprise Zones

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on establishing enterprise zones in Scotland. [50894]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland has regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a wide range of issues. The Government will introduce 21 new enterprise zones across the Local Enterprise Partnerships in England to encourage new investment. Provision has been made available, through Barnett consequentials as part of the Budget 2011, to enable the Scottish Government to introduce a similar policy if it wishes. The Government will work with the Scottish Government to explore opportunities for employing the new Enterprise Zone model across the United Kingdom.

Green Investment Bank

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Green Investment Bank since May 2010; and on what date each such meeting took place. [52040]

Michael Moore: Since May 2010, I have had a wide range of formal and informal meetings, including conversations with ministerial and Cabinet colleagues and external stakeholders, on the Green Investment Bank.

Most recently, on 30 March I attended the Westminster launch of Edinburgh's bid to host the Green Investment Bank, where I received the city's business case and met representatives of the cross-sector bid consortium; and on 5 April I discussed Edinburgh's bid, and broader progress towards establishing the bank, with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. We agreed that senior officials would meet representatives of the financial services sector in Edinburgh to discuss the issues.

I will continue to engage closely on these issues with my colleagues in Government, the financial services and energy sectors in Scotland and other key stakeholders until final decisions are made.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on setting the level of the fourth carbon budget. [51826]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne) have regular discussions on a variety of topics.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to avoid the overlap of policy instruments in respect of electricity market reform and a carbon price floor. [51934]

Charles Hendry: The carbon price floor was one of the package of proposed measures consulted on in the electricity market reform (EMR) consultation in December 2010, and has since been announced in the 23 March Budget. A key criteria for the development of the market reform package is coherence. The carbon price floor complements both options for a feed-in-tariff outlined in the EMR consultation.

Carbon Sequestration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the timetable for the four carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. [51935]

Charles Hendry: Subject to the successful conclusion of negotiations we expect the first supported CCS demonstration project to complete construction in 2014-15.

Our aim is for all three of the additional CCS projects to be operational by 2018-20. We expect to commence the process for their selection later this year, when a more detailed timetable will be published.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much he plans to contribute from the public purse to the four carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. [51936]

Charles Hendry: In last year's spending review the Government committed up to £1 billion to support the capital costs of the first carbon capture and storage demonstration project and is committed to continuing public sector investment in a total of four projects.

Decisions on the exact funding requirements for further demonstration projects will be taken once the details of those demonstration projects are known. The Government intends to launch the process to identify the further three projects in the CCS demonstration programme later this year.

Climate Change Levy

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of proposals announced in the 2011 Budget to increase the climate change levy discount for energy intensive businesses exposed to international competition. [51113]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

An assessment of the impacts of the proposal was included in the Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6125.pdf

Contracts for Difference

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contingency plans his Department has made should the assumptions underpinning the scenarios modelled for the Contracts for Difference prove to be invalid. [50618]

Gregory Barker: A range of sensitivities were tested in the modelling for the electricity market reform consultation, in order to identify how well the proposed mechanisms performed under different fossil fuel and carbon price assumptions, as well as higher than expected electricity demand and different technology costs.

Further work is being undertaken and will be published with the electricity market reform White Paper, which will set out final policy proposals.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [51998]

Gregory Barker: No.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements his Department has with the Government wine cellar for the provision of alcoholic drinks; and how much his Department has spent on purchases from the Government wine cellar since his appointment. [52348]

Gregory Barker: None.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51525]

Gregory Barker: The Government have not set targets for a reduction in the number of posts in the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Civil Nuclear Police Authority, the Committee on Climate Change, and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

The Coal Authority plans to reduce its headcount from 165 to 134 during the next 24 months.

Workforce implications of the spending review settlement will depend on internal budget allocations and subsequent management decisions.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff from which organisations have been seconded to his Department to work on electricity market reform. [51622]

Gregory Barker: We have seconded seven experts to work on the electricity market reform programme, from the following organisations:

Ofgem
Elexon
Scottish Government
Deloitte
Bain
Bright Futures consultancy
Cambridge university.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what make and model of car from the Government Car Service is allocated to each *(a)* Minister and *(b)* senior official of his Department; and how much his Department has spent on overtime payments for drivers of ministerial cars in the latest period for which figures are available. [52394]

Gregory Barker: No Minister or Senior Official within the Department has a car allocated to them by the Government Car Service.

Departmental Official Residences

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* he and *(b)* any Minister or special adviser in his Department has stayed overnight in the course of official duties at (i) Dorneywood, (ii) Chevening, (iii) Hillsborough Castle and (iv) Chequers since his appointment. [52346]

Gregory Barker: No.

Departmental Responsibilities

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average number of hours he spends on his official duties per week *(a)* during parliamentary recess periods and *(b)* when Parliament is sitting. [51658]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) ensures he balances appropriately his parliamentary, constituency and official duties both during and outside parliamentary recess periods.

Departmental Secondment

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* role is of each person working in his Department seconded from another company or institution; in each case (i) what the name is of the seconding organisation, (ii) what the length of secondment is and (iii) who is responsible for meeting the salary costs of the secondee; and whether any secondee to his Department has been involved in the recruitment of any other secondees since his appointment. [52266]

Gregory Barker: The response is set out in the following table:

Job title	*Role*	*Seconding organisation*	*Length of secondment*	*Salary costs met by*	*Been involved in recruitment*
Assistant financial adviser	To assist the Office of Carbon Capture and Storage team working on Carbon Capture and Storage Project 1 in resolving financial issues associated with that project	Ernst & Young	18 months	DECC	No
Business Analyst	Utility and market analysis	KPMG	1 year	DECC	No
Deputy Head, Oil and Gas Development	Field development and metering	ConocoPhillips	1-2 years	Seconding organisation	No
Policy Adviser	Adviser on Energy Market Reform Programme (EMR)	Ofgem	1 year	DECC	No
Policy Adviser	Adviser on Energy Market Reform Programme (EMR)	Deloitte	10 months	DECC	No
Adviser	Adviser on Instrument Design (EMR Programme)	Bright Futures	6 months	DECC	No
Adviser	Adviser on Future Electricity Networks	National Grid	8 months	Seconding organisation	No
Policy Adviser	Adviser on capacity mechanisms	Elexon	3 months	DECC	No
Senior Policy Adviser Marine Energy	Senior Policy Adviser Marine Energy	Parsons Brinkerhoff	2 years	DECC	No
Policy adviser	Geological Disposal Facility Programme—engagement	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	18 months	DECC	No

Job title	*Role*	*Seconding organisation*	*Length of secondment*	*Salary costs met by*	*Been involved in recruitment*
Senior Adviser	Industry challenge to Office of Nuclear Development policy	Costain	18 months	DECC	No
Expert Chair	Expert Chair of Office of Nuclear Development and external advice	KPMG	18 months	DECC	No
Policy adviser	Waste and decommissioning adviser	Energy Solution	6 months	DECC	No
Policy adviser	Plutonium management adviser	NDA Graduate Programme	4 months	Seconding organisation	No
Downstream Oil Infrastructure and Supply Manager	Lead on Downstream Oil Resilience	UK Petroleum Industry Association	2 years	Seconding organisation	No
Head of Downstream Gas and Electricity Resilience	Lead on emergency planning for downstream gas and electricity	National Grid	2 years	Seconding organisation	No
Policy Adviser, Energy Company Obligation	Advice on Devolved matters	Scottish Government	2 years	Seconding organisation	No
Heat Policy Consultant	Developing financing options for District Heating Networks	London Development Agency	1 year	DECC	No
Policy Adviser	Policy analysis on fuel poverty policy	Eaga	1 year	Seconding organisation	No
Fuel Poverty Advisory group Secretariat	Secretariat	Eaga	1 year	Seconding organisation	No
Chief Scientific Adviser	Ensure that the best science and engineering advice is brought to bear effectively on DECC policy and decision-making	Cambridge University	3 years	DECC	Yes
Senior Policy Adviser	Engineering adviser within the Future Electricity Networks (FEN) team on long-term issues affecting the electricity networks of Britain over the period 2020 to 2050	EDF Energy	6 months	DECC	No
Climate Science Specialist	Provide scientific support to the Climate Science Observations and International Team	Met Office	6 months	Seconding organisation	No
DECC Research Fellow (Climate Science)	To develop a closer working relationship between the NERC science community and DECC. To improve the communication of climate science from the UK scientific community to the public on climate change. To identify critical gaps in the science and propose ways to address them.	British Antarctic Survey	6 months	DECC	No
Policy Adviser	Provide advice on relevant policy issues to Ministers and officials	Climate Change Capital	1 year	DECC	No

Electricity: Grid

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on investment in smart grid construction with incorporated electric vehicle technology in small towns and rural communities. [51732]

Charles Hendry: The Office of Low Emission Vehicles have awarded funding to eight pilot projects for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure through their Plugged in Places programme. We are ensuring the electricity grid can react to this new infrastructure through Ofgem's Low Carbon Networks Fund, two of the winning projects from this fund will work closely with two of the "Plugged-In-Places" projects to learn lessons from this additional infrastructure.

The lessons learned from these projects will be used to inform development throughout the UK.

Energy: Single Market

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department is making on discussions on the EU single market in energy and the establishment of a single European energy grid. [51733]

Charles Hendry: The Third Package of Energy Market Liberalisation, which all member states were required to implement by 3 March 2011, provides much of the legal framework needed to create a single EU energy market. It contains a range of provisions designed to facilitate cross-border trading and promote greater integration of national markets, including a requirement on EU system operators to publish 10-year network development plans to identify where grid reinforcements are needed across the EU. Furthermore, the European Commission will be proposing legislation on energy infrastructure in the autumn which will include mechanisms for selecting the infrastructure projects which will be necessary for the EU to meet the low-carbon and energy security challenges over the coming decades ("projects of European interest"). It will also seek to tackle any remaining barriers to infrastructure investment, particularly as regards finance and planning.

The UK Government, together with nine other countries, are helping to address this infrastructure challenge through the North Seas Offshore Grid Initiative. This initiative is considering how we might better coordinate offshore grid development in the North, Irish and Baltic seas and tackle any planning, market, regulatory and technical barriers. The experience gained from this initiative should also be helpful for other large-scale cross-border infrastructure projects which will be needed across the EU.

Smart Meters

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to co-ordinate the Green Deal with the national roll-out of smart meters. [51827]

Gregory Barker: We are already working to ensure that we make the most of the potential synergies between the Green Deal and the smart meter roll out, particularly around awareness raising on energy efficiency. We are committed to doing this in a way that makes sure those companies involved in the roll-out do not gain any extra market advantage in relation to the Green Deal.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51398]

Gregory Barker: As 2010-11 accounts are not yet finalised, the last published figures available are for 2009-10. However, during 2009-10, recruitment fees were not recorded separately from other recruitment related expenditure. There would be a disproportionate cost involved in separating this information.

The recruitment costs incurred during 2010-11 currently total £79,000, however, year-end accounts have not yet been finalised and this figure may change.

The Department has not paid any outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff.

In 2009-10 £609,512.09 was spent on staff training.

Energy Strategy

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to engage with the World Bank's energy strategy review. [51151]

Charles Hendry: I understand that the Department for International Development (DFID) has been in regular contact with the World Bank to feed in UK views on the energy strategy review. Officials in DECC and DFID meet regularly to discuss the UK position on the review as it progresses.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last discussed the World Bank's energy strategy review with the Secretary of State for International Development; and what the outcome of the discussion was. [51152]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change meets with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on a regular basis and a variety of relevant matters are discussed. Although they have not met specifically to discuss the World Bank energy strategy review, officials from both Departments meet regularly and discuss the review as it progresses. The Secretary of State is in contact with officials on the key issues relating to this process.

DFID officials have also been in regular contact with the World Bank to feed in UK views as the review progresses. They have emphasised the need for the World Bank to take full account of all the relevant issues concerning use of renewable energy versus fossil fuels in developing countries, and to pay better consideration to the vulnerability of natural resources and energy assets in developing countries. The UK has also emphasised the importance of strengthening the World Bank's role in supporting developing country planning capacity for low carbon, climate resilient growth.

Energy Programmes

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will introduce mechanisms to reduce the potential for large energy companies to benefit disproportionately from his Department's mechanism for funding energy programmes. [50626]

Charles Hendry: The Department has a number of mechanisms for supporting energy programmes. These include feed-in tariffs for small-scale low carbon electricity, the renewable heat incentive, the renewables obligation, the CRC energy efficiency scheme and others. The Electricity Market Reform programme is currently considering the role of additional mechanisms in the electricity sector.

The Department always seeks to ensure that firms are not able to benefit disproportionately from the design of these schemes and, where necessary, reviews the design of policies to ensure there is effective competition between firms and that consumers and taxpayers are receiving a fair deal.

Energy: Green Deal

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the *(a)* terms of reference, *(b)* contracts and *(c)* research findings of the work being conducted for his Department on consumer demand for the green deal by (i) Element Energy Ltd and Cambridge Architectural Ltd and (ii) Gfk NOP. [51918]

Gregory Barker: In accordance with the Cabinet Office's agenda for transparency, the terms and reference and contracts for both pieces of research will be available on Contract Finder on the Business Link website, see:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1086600691&type=PIP

Findings from the work will be available in autumn 2011 in DECC's consultation paper on the Green Deal and impact assessments.

Forests: Developing Countries

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department is providing funding to the Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries programme. [51985]

Gregory Barker: The UK has committed £300 million for reducing deforestation in developing countries for the fast start period (2010-12). This is 20% of our £1.5 billion fast start commitment.

For the next four years (i.e. the spending review period), the UK has allocated £2.9 billion for international climate finance. This includes full funding of our remaining fast start commitment, and will include a further allocation for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). Further decisions on programming this finance will be taken later this year.

Fuel Poverty: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of people in St Albans constituency were living in fuel poverty in each of the last five years. [52119]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty is measured at a household rather than individual level. Data is available for the year 2006 and 2008, and these are shown in the following table.

	Number of households in fuel poverty[1]	*Proportion of households in fuel poverty (%)*
2006	2,400	6.4
2008	3,500	9.2

[1] To nearest 100.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether an additional assessment of the costs of nuclear waste management and spent fuel will take place following the problems encountered with spent fuel in Fukushima, Japan. [52174]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State has asked the UK Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to provide a report to the Government on the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and the lessons to be learned for the UK nuclear industry. He has asked for an interim report by mid-May 2011 and a final report within six months. The Government will consider what further action needs to be taken in light of Dr Weightman's findings.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the likelihood of a nuclear accident occuring which entails costs of greater than £1 billion. [52175]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a robust and transparent regulatory regime for protecting people and society from the hazards of the nuclear industry that is overseen by an independent nuclear safety operator. This regime ensures that risks of nuclear accidents are minimised. Under that regime, nuclear operators must satisfy the nuclear regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), that they have adequate engineering and administrative measures in place to ensure this—this is largely achieved via a written safety case. Safety cases must include assessments of the likelihood of nuclear accidents and measures to mitigate them. They provide the basis for ONR giving permissions for nuclear activities at sites. The likelihood of a nuclear accident at a nuclear site with costs greater than £l billion, based on the assessment of safety cases by the ONR, is estimated at less than 1 in 10,000 years.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which nuclear power stations in the UK rely on emergency diesel generators to cool the reactor in the event of a power failure; how often these generators are tested under full emergency conditions; how many tests have been *(a)* passed and *(b)* failed in the last 10 years; what further emergency power systems are attached to each such power station; and if he will make a statement. [52307]

Charles Hendry: There are 10 operating nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom that use diesel generators or gas turbines to supply back-up power to ensure adequate cooling of the reactor in the event of a national grid power failure to the site. In addition, each station has secondary back-up systems to ensure that, should a primary back-up system fail, sufficient capacity would continue to be available to ensure adequate levels of cooling. The 10 stations are shown in the following table:

Station and location	*Operated by*	*Type of power back-up system*
Wylfa, North Wales	Magnox Ltd	Gas turbine
Oldbury, South Gloucestershire	Magnox Ltd	Gas turbine
Hunterston B, Ayrshire	EDF Energy	Diesel
Torness, East Lothian	EDF Energy	Diesel
Hinkley Point B, Somerset	EDF Energy	Gas turbine
Heysham 1, Lancashire	EDF Energy	Gas turbine
Heysham 2, Lancashire	EDF Energy	Diesel

Station and location	*Operated by*	*Type of power back-up system*
Sizewell B, Suffolk	EDF Energy	Diesel
Dungeness B, Kent	EDF Energy	Diesel
Hartlepool, Co. Durham	EDF Energy	Diesel

It is not possible to test these back-up systems under 'full emergency conditions' because this would require a disconnection of the site from the national grid. However, it is a requirement of the nuclear installations licensing regime that each operating power station must carry out routine tests of its systems at regular intervals. Those intervals vary from weekly to three monthly tests, depending on the age and design of the back-up system. While occasional faults have occurred in the period of the last 10 years, adequate power supplies have been maintained at all 10 operating stations to secure the availability of sufficient cooling for the reactors.

Nuclear Power: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* expected outputs are of the review of the windfall to operators of existing nuclear power plants as a result of proposals for carbon price support announced on 24 March 2011. [52153]

Charles Hendry: The Government keep all tax policy under review as part of the Budget process. The carbon price floor does not begin until April 2013.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanism has been put in place to ensure that the maximum price cap for the waste transfer price of nuclear waste does not result in transfer of cost to the public purse. [52154]

Charles Hendry: The consultation on an updated waste transfer pricing methodology for the disposal of higher activity waste from new nuclear power stations closed on 8 March and the Government are now considering the responses received.

The consultation set out that the cap on the level of the waste transfer price will reflect the Government's current analysis of risk and uncertainty and will be set at a level where the Government have a very high level of confidence that actual costs will be lower than the cap. The consultation recognised that, in setting a cap, the small residual risk that actual cost might exceed the cap will lie with the Government. Hence in return for setting a cap the Government will charge the operator an appropriate risk fee.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish in full each agreement between industry and the Government on waste transfer pricing in respect of the costs of nuclear waste and spent fuel management. [52155]

Charles Hendry: This is an issue that has been raised in responses to the recent consultation on an updated waste transfer pricing methodology. We will set out the Government's intentions in the forthcoming Government response to this consultation.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information will be publicly available in respect of contracts awarded under contract for difference arrangements under his proposal for energy market reform. [52176]

Charles Hendry: Further details on the Government's approach to implementing the contract for difference (CfD) and the rest of the energy market reform (EMR) package will be set out in the White Paper this year and in the subsequent legislation.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who will bear the cost of construction overruns for nuclear power stations constructed under contract for difference arrangements under his proposals for energy market reform. [52177]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made a written statement to Parliament on 18 October 2010 setting out the Government's policy that there will be no public subsidy for new nuclear power. It will be for the private sector to fund, construct and operate any new nuclear power stations and cover the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management costs.

Contracts for difference are one potential option being considered through electricity market reform to facilitate investment in all forms of low-carbon generation. A White Paper on Electricity Market Reform will be published this summer.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure there will be no public subsidy for the nuclear industry as a consequence of any changes to funded decommissioning programmes. [52306]

Charles Hendry: Under the Energy Act 2008, as part of gaining approval to build a new nuclear power station, operators will be required to submit to the Secretary of State a Funded Decommissioning Programme (FDP) for approval. Operators will be required to demonstrate in the FDP that they have secure financing arrangements in place to pay for the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management and waste disposal costs, without recourse to the taxpayer. This is in line with the Government's policy that there will be no public subsidy for new nuclear power.

The Act makes provisions for FDPs to be modified over time. The Secretary of State's powers under the Act in relation to the approval of modifications to an approved FDP must be exercised with the aim of ensuring that prudent provision is made for the liabilities covered by the FDP. A change which results in the FDP not making prudent provision for liabilities will not be approved by the Secretary of State.

Offshore Industry

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate and Change if he will *(a)* make and *(b)* publish an assessment of the potential effect of changes to the North Sea oil taxation regime on (i) employment in the oil and gas related sectors, (ii) investment in drilling and exploration and (iii) UK energy security (A) in the UK and (B) on the UK continental shelf. [51940]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

An assessment of the impacts of the changes to the North Sea oil taxation regime announced in Budget 2011 is given in HMRC's Tax Impact and Information Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6133.htm.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received from recipients of feed-in tariff payments on the frequency of payments made under the scheme. [52193]

Gregory Barker: DECC has had one representation from an electricity supplier company regarding the frequency of feed-in tariffs (FITs) payments. This will be considered as part of the comprehensive review of the FITs scheme.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will commission research on the potential relationship between the frequency of feed-in tariff payments and the sustainability of debt repayments made by recipients on loans taken out to finance microgeneration projects under the feed-in tariff scheme. [52194]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not conducted research into this particular aspect of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. The legislation requires payments to be made at least quarterly but suppliers can choose to make payments more frequently. All aspects of FITs, including administration, will be considered as part of the comprehensive review currently under way.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to The Plan for Growth, page 82, what plans his Department has to consult on a cap for the cost to the consumer of renewable financial incentives. [52404]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

HM Treasury Ministers are responsible for decisions on tax rates and the level of spending. The Government do not routinely consult on these matters. The 2010 spending review set an overall cap for DECC's tax and spending through policies that entail levy-funded spending. This cap will be managed through a new control framework, as announced at the Budget.

DECC will be responsible for managing their levy-funded spending policies such that they remain within the cap. When making changes to these policies, DECC will follow all required procedures such as statutory consultation and parliamentary scrutiny.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will assess the capacity of Ofgem to administer monthly feed-in tariff payments; [52407]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect on voluntary feed-in tariff (FIT) licensees of making FIT payments quarterly. [52408]

Gregory Barker: The Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme is currently under review. All aspects of the scheme will be considered as part of the review, including the administration of the scheme.

Under the FITs scheme, the obligation is on electricity suppliers to make FITs payments. Section 35 (3.2) (3.2.5) of the Modifications to the Standard Conditions of Electricity Supply Licences states that a FITs Supplier must "make FIT payments no less than quarterly, except insofar as otherwise agreed in the Statement of FITs Terms."

However the levelisation process is undertaken by Ofgem on a quarterly basis. Ofgem is currently reviewing responses to a recently concluded consultation on guidance for suppliers which included a question in relation to change in frequency of the levelisation process.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effects of making feed-in tariff payments quarterly on the ability of consumers to make monthly finance payments to cover the upfront cost of microgeneration projects. [52409]

Gregory Barker: No assessment has been made on the effects of making quarterly feed-in tariffs (FITs) payments on the ability of consumers to make monthly finance payments.

The comprehensive review of the scheme is now underway and will consider all aspects of the scheme including the administration process.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason Ofgem makes feed-in tariff payments on a quarterly rather a monthly basis. [52410]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem does not make feed-in tariffs (FITs) payments; this obligation is on the electricity suppliers. In deciding on the frequency with which levelisation is carried out, a balance has to be struck between the cost of administering the scheme and the benefits of a frequent levelisation process.

Renewable Heat Premium Payment Scheme

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department expects to announce the details of the renewable heat premium payment scheme. [51153]

Gregory Barker: As we announced on 10 March, we plan to publish details of the renewable heat premium payment scheme in May this year.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Finance

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department is providing funding to Kew Gardens' Millennium Seed Bank. [52165]

Gregory Barker: No, DECC is not providing funding to Kew Garden's Millennium Seed Bank. I would direct the right hon. Member to DEFRA, who have responsibility for funding Royal Kew Gardens.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward measures to mitigate the effect on energy-intensive users of the carbon price floor announced in the 2011 Budget. [51931]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Budget 2011 announced a package of supporting measures to mitigate the impact of the carbon price floor on energy-intensive industries:

not introducing the carbon capture and storage levy so average business electricity bills will be 2% lower from 2015 and 3% lower in 2020 than they otherwise would have been;

a cap on the cost of policies funded through energy bills;

extension of the climate change levy discount on electricity for participants in the Climate Change Agreements scheme to 2023 and an increase in the electricity discount from 65% to 80% from April 2013 so electricity bills will be on average 1% lower; and

a further 1% reduction in corporation tax to 26% from 1 April 2011. By 2014, it will be reduced to 23%.

The cumulative impacts of climate change and energy policies are also being considered as part of the Energy Intensive Industry Strategy produced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. This strategy will identify recommendations to maximise abatement while ensuring the future competitiveness of UK energy-intensive business.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will *(a)* make and *(b)* publish an assessment of the likelihood of carbon leakage to other EU member states as a result of the carbon price floor announced in the 2011 Budget. [51932]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will *(a)* make and *(b)* publish an assessment of the potential effect on employment in each sector of the introduction of the carbon price floor announced in the 2011 Budget. [51933]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

An assessment of the impacts of the carbon price floor is given in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will *(a)* make and *(b)* publish an assessment of the potential effect on (i) household and (ii) general taxation of funding from the public purse to the four carbon capture and storage demonstration projects announced in the 2011 Budget. [51939]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

In last year's spending review, the Government committed up to £1 billion to support the capital costs of the first demonstration project. The Government do not publish the effects of individual spending allocation decisions on households or the "public purse", but have published an overall assessment of the implications of all decisions made in last year's spending review on projections of future public expenditure. The Government would adopt a similar approach when taking decisions on future levels of funding for further CCS demonstration projects.

USA

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what class of travel was used by those participating in the green trade mission; and which airlines were used. [51679]

Gregory Barker: My private secretary and I flew business class to and from the US and economy class within the US. A DECC official supported me on the mission, flying premium economy to the US, economy class within the US, and economy class back to the UK. British Airways was used for the transatlantic flights, and US Airways for flights within the US.

The business delegates made their own travel arrangements and paid for their own tickets. The Department does not hold information on the airlines or class of travel that they chose to use.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what trade deals were signed *(a)* during and *(b)* after the green trade mission to the US. [51680]

Gregory Barker: The visit had the objectives of demonstrating that the shift to a green economy is beneficial for businesses and growth, as well as promoting bilateral trade opportunities. The visit was successful in both regards with the UK companies on the mission gaining a greater understanding of the opportunities for them in the US market and a number of US companies expressing interest in the UK. Signing "trade deals" during the visit was not an objective for the delegation.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* gifts and *(b)* hospitality members of the green trade mission to the US received (a) before, (b) during and (c) after the visit. [51681]

Gregory Barker: The Government are not aware of any gifts or hospitality that members of the delegation may have received.

I received a number of gifts, details of which will be published in the normal way via the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/gifts_minister/giftsminister.aspx

During the visit, a number of events were hosted by companies and institutions. Details are set out in the following table.

Organisation	*Nature of event*	*Estimated value of support (£)*
Saul Ewing LLP	Room for breakfast meeting with Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey, Deputy Mayor of Philadelphia and 25 senior stakeholders from Philadelphia and New Jersey business and government community	65

Organisation	*Nature of event*	*Estimated value of support (£)*
Saul Ewing LLP	Contribution toward cost of room hire and catering for panel event with Philadelphia academics and business leaders and reception for 100 Pennsylvania and New Jersey business leaders, NGO and government officials.	1,845
PIDC	Room for lunch discussion with former Governor of Pennsylvania and 25 senior stakeholders from Philadelphia economic development and low carbon business communities.	65
Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina	Room for breakfast reception with Senator Lindsey Graham and academics from Moore School of Business.	185
Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina	Lecture hall and press room for panel session with South Carolina business leaders, Senator Lindsey Graham and audience of business school students and South Carolina business and government stakeholders.	1,250

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the members of the green trade mission to the US from private sector companies made a contribution to the cost of *(a)* travel and *(b)* hotel accommodation. [51682]

Gregory Barker: The representatives of private sector companies on the delegation paid for all of their own hotel accommodation, air and rail transport.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of *(a)* air transport, *(b)* road transport, *(c)* hotel accommodation, *(d)* food and drink and *(e)* other expenses for the green trade mission to the US. [51683]

Gregory Barker: The costs of all ministerial overseas travel are published quarterly in a register on the Department's website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx

This will be updated in due course to include the costs of this trip.

Members of the delegation from the private sector paid for their own travel and accommodation.

Road transport and other costs in the US were met by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade and Investment.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he and Ministers in his Department have for future green trade missions; and to which countries such missions are planned. [51745]

Gregory Barker: Ensuring the transition to low carbon sustainable economic growth is central to the Government's strategy for tackling climate change and recovering from the global financial crisis. British businesses' ability to demonstrate that they are already seizing the opportunities presented by the global green economy assists in making the case around the world for tackling climate change.

I, and other DECC Ministers, will be working with colleagues at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade and Investment to ensure that the UK's low carbon business sector plays a key role in our future plans for diplomatic engagement on climate and energy issues with other countries in the future.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the recent green trade mission to the US. [51746]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change will purchase offsets in spring 2011 to offset the emissions from all air travel purchased in the 2010-11 financial year, including travel to and from the US by DECC Ministers and officials. The Department will make use of the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility, with full details placed on the Department's website.

The Government do not hold the relevant information to estimate the emissions arising from the non-Government members of the delegation who made their own transport arrangements.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions British forces in Afghanistan have been transported by aircraft of foreign states since 2001. [51028]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. UK Forces operate in Afghanistan as part of a wider NATO effort and assets are assigned based on task not nationality. Accordingly, the UK will routinely make use of other nations' assets and vice versa.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions the Harrier aircraft failed to respond to close air support requests during its deployment to Afghanistan; [51125]

(2) what the average response time was for close air support missions in Afghanistan for the *(a)* Tornado and *(b)* Harrier in the latest period for which figures are available; [51185]

(3) how much notice of planned close air support missions in Afghanistan the Royal Air Force requires; [51186]

(4) on how many occasions Tornado aircraft have failed to respond to close air support requests in Afghanistan since its deployment. [51192]

Nick Harvey: Harrier was last deployed in Afghanistan in June 2009 and it is no longer in service. When held on ground-based close air support (GCAS) alert both Harrier GR9 prior to June 2009 and Tornado GR4 were declared to operational commanders with the same required readiness state response times. I am withholding further details about GCAS as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payload reductions were necessary for the *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Tornado to operate in Afghanistan during summer operations. [51182]

Nick Harvey: Harrier was last deployed to Afghanistan in June 2009 and it is no longer in service. Neither aircraft type required any payload reductions during summer operations from Kandahar airfield.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which air asset has had the highest reliability rate for close air support missions in Afghanistan since 2002. [51184]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Astor of Hever, to the noble Lord, Lord West of Spithead, in another place on 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column WA428.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the Storm Shadow has been used during operations in Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [51300]

Nick Harvey: Storm Shadow has not been used in Afghanistan in the last 12 months. We carefully select the type of weapon in every engagement to ensure the most appropriate munition is used to deliver the required effect, while minimising the risk of civilian casualties.

Air Force

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the risk management strategy prepared by the Environmental Science Group in relation to the proposal to close the RAF ordnance clearance operations at Goswick sands near Berwick-upon-Tweed; and what revisions to the report took place after the first version was considered by the Royal Air Force. [50443][1]

Nick Harvey: A copy of the risk management strategy for the former air weapons range at Goswick sands, will be placed in the Library of the House.

The risk management strategy was written at the request of the RAF by the Ministry of Defence's Environmental Science Group (ESG). RAF subject matter experts and other stakeholders were consulted and a number of corrections were incorporated into the final document within Table 8.3. These downgraded the risk level of an accidental explosion resulting from contact with horses on the beach or deliberate tampering.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expected date is at which the RAF E-3D AWACS will cease to be interoperable with *(a)* US and *(b)* NATO air assets. [51189]

Nick Harvey: The RAF E-3D AWACS has an enduring requirement to retain interoperability with US and NATO assets. There is no planned future date when this will change.

Air Space

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what types of Russian military aircraft have entered *(a)* UK territorial airspace and *(b)* airspace controlled by UK air traffic control without permission in the last 10 years; and on what date each such incident took place. [50957]

Nick Harvey: No Russian military aircraft have entered UK territorial airspace without permission. Russian military Bear and Blackjack aircraft have entered the UK flight information region without permission.

I am withholding information on how many Russian military aircraft were identified in each incident and the exact dates of incidents, as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. However, the number of days within each month from September 2006 that Quick Reaction Alert aircraft were scrambled for Russian military aircraft that entered the civil flight information region is contained in the following table; information is no longer held prior to September 2006.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
2006	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	4	5	1
2008	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
2009	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
2010	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
2011	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the effects of the deployment of *(a)* Typhoon jets to the Mediterranean and *(b)* Rapier missile batteries to Afghanistan on the UK's capacity to protect its airspace. [50959]

Nick Harvey: There has been no impact on the capability of the Typhoon force to fulfil its Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) commitments. The Typhoon force is of sufficient size that it can support its current role on NATO Operation Unified Protector enforcing the No Fly Zone over Libya, while at the same time maintaining aircraft at continuous ground readiness at RAF Coningsby and RAF Leuchars.

There are no Rapier missile batteries deployed to Afghanistan. Ground-based air defence capabilities, such as Rapier, are not routinely deployed as part of our UK air defence posture. However, we retain the capability to deploy them at short notice should the need arise.

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[1] *[Official Report, 19 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 7MC.]*

Armed Forces: Cadets

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial support his Department provided to school cadet forces in the *(a)* independent and *(b)* state sector in 2010-11; and what financial support he plans to allocate for 2011-12. [51365]

Mr Robathan: The final amount of financial support provided by public funding to the Ministry of Defence sponsored Cadet forces for financial year (FY) 2010-11 is currently being compiled. It is anticipated that the figures will be similar to FY 2009-10, which are shown in the following table:

Sponsored Cadet force	*Funding (£000)*
Combined Cadet force	26,019,000
Army Cadet force	78,944,000
Sea Cadet Corps	11,304,000
Air Training Corps	36,927,000

It is not possible to divide these figures accurately between support to independent and state schools, as many of the costs are borne centrally or shared between independent and state schools that are in partnership.

Financial support for FY 2011-12 will be determined as part of the Department's annual planning round.

Armed Forces: Ceremonies

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to reduce the number of combat-trained troops required for ceremonial duties; and if he will make a statement. [51190]

Mr Robathan: All ceremonial duties are conducted by troops with an operational role, and can therefore be considered combat trained.

There are no current plans to reduce the level of public or state ceremonial duties, and no current plans to deliver them using non-combat trained personnel.

Armed Forces: Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which role within the command structure of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF has responsibility for investigating allegations of (i) domestic violence and (ii) sexual abuse; and if he will make a statement. [51371]

Mr Robathan: Domestic violence and sexual abuse are criminal offences and as such the civilian police would have jurisdiction in such matters. However, there may be occasions when the civilian police pass jurisdiction back to the service and on these occasions, the service police and Service Prosecuting Authority would have the lead, as this is not a matter which could be dealt with summarily by a commanding officer. Overseas, the service police will undertake the duties that would fall to police forces in the UK.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which welfare organisations are responsible for dealing with domestic violence and sexual abuse within the armed forces; and if he will make a statement; [51372]

(2) what support is available for armed forces personnel and their families *(a)* accommodated in services living accommodation and *(b)* on an overseas posting who experience incidents of (i) domestic violence and (ii) sexual abuse; and if he will make a statement. [51430]

Mr Robathan: Domestic violence and sexual abuse manifest themselves in many forms and incidents require a wide range of skills from a variety of service and civilian support agencies if they are to be dealt with effectively. No organisation therefore has sole or statutory responsibility for detecting, dealing with, or offering support in response to all forms of such abuse within the service community. However, examples of the agencies involved would include: service welfare organisations; padres/chaplains; medical practitioners; local authority children's services/adult social care; woman's aid; independent domestic violence advisers; and civilian and service police forces.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether service families federations were consulted on the content of the Tri-Service Policy on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (JSP 913); and if he will make a statement. [51373]

Mr Robathan: The service family federations were not consulted. However, subject matter experts within the three single services were consulted throughout the production of the Joint Services Publication and all provided input. A draft was also circulated to stakeholders, including external charities and organisations, through the Violence Against Women and Girls department in the Home Office.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to take steps to raise awareness amongst *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* civilians subject to service discipline of the Tri-Service Policy on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (JSP 913); and if he will make a statement. [51431]

Mr Robathan: The new Joint Services Publication 913 is referenced in single service websites and regulations. The individual services' police forces undertake awareness briefings through such groups as families forums, and the pamphlets highlighting areas where support is available to service families have also been produced.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training commanding officers receive on dealing with allegations and incidents of *(a)* domestic violence and *(b)* sexual violence; and if he will make a statement. [51466]

Mr Robathan: Commanding Officers receive briefings on dealing with allegations of domestic or sexual abuse which provide guidance and highlight where they can turn for further advice. This advice will be available through a variety of sources, from unit welfare officers and service welfare organisations, whose staff receive thorough training in all areas of welfare, to specialist police officers and personnel staff.

Armed Forces: Fuels

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many litres of Avgas the armed forces used in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [51549]

(2) what plans he has for the future use of Avgas by the armed forces; and if he will make a statement; [51550]

(3) what proportion of aircraft fuel used by the Royal Air Force is Avgas. [51596]

Peter Luff: During the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 almost 2.8 million litres of Avgas was delivered to Ministry of Defence (MOD) units. Avgas comprises 0.5% of the total volume of aviation fuel delivered to the RAF. Details of fuel consumption are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD regularly reviews its fuel requirements, including the volume and types of fuel it needs. While an operational or technical requirement remains for this type of fuel, Avgas will continue to be used.

Armed Forces: Married People

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the incidence of marriage breakdowns among armed forces personnel after deployment; and if he will make a statement. [52218]

Mr Robathan: No information is held on the incidence of marital breakdowns after deployment. The implementation of the joint personnel administration system in 2006 amended the way that marital status was recorded to focus on current status. It is therefore not possible to say how many people in the armed forces are divorced or separated without incurring disproportionate cost as this would require a review of all personal records.

Armed Forces: Merseyside

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force had a home address in (i) Merseyside and (ii) St Helens South and Whiston constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [52320]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 January 2011 there were 140 service personnel stationed in the Merseyside county area. 80 from the Army, 40 from the Royal Navy and 20 from the Royal Air Force.

10 of the 140 service personnel were based in St Helens.

Residential address information with reference to parliamentary constituency is not held.

Details of the number and stationed location of military personnel broken down by service, county, unitary authority and local authority area is produced by the Department as Tri-Service Publication 10 which can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=0&thiscontent=100&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=2011-02-10&disText=01%20Jan%202011&from=listing&topDate=2011-02-10

A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings on the proposed Arms Trade treaty he has attended since his appointment. [51965]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Secretary of State for Defence fully supports efforts to secure an Arms Trade treaty and has discussed Arms Trade issues at a number of meetings in the course of normal defence business.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with their counterparts at the UN on the Arms Trade treaty. [52006]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Secretary of State for Defence fully supports efforts to secure an Arms Trade treaty. The Secretary of State and other Ministers are fully engaged in developments on an Arms Trade treaty and have discussed this issue with their counterparts in the course of normal defence business.

Ministry of Defence officials are part of the cross-government team, led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including experts from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for International Development. The UK team is fully and proactively engaged both domestically and internationally on efforts to negotiate an Arms Trade treaty; MOD experts were part of the UK delegation which attended the last Preparatory Committee meeting held at the United Nations in February 2011.

Defence: Procurement

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 65WH, which categories of long-lead items are to be purchased ahead of Main Gate. [51459]

Peter Luff: As I told the House on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 65WH, it is normal practice for most large procurement programmes to purchase long lead items ahead of Main Gate.

Final decisions on what Long Lead items will be required and when, will not be taken until after Initial Gate. However, the main categories are expected to be: Boat one: items related to primary and secondary propulsion; the main boat system and steel including hull structure and structural fittings; electrical generation, conversion, and distribution; some components of the Combat Systems; and ship's services; Boats two and three: items related to propulsion.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [52000]

Dr Fox: There have been no ministerial directions issued since my appointment.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on departmental alcoholic drinks, how much his Department spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets between 2 May 1997 and 12 May 2010. [51035]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50695]

Peter Luff: The total number of Ministry of Defence (MOD) contracts with Lockheed Martin and its subsidiaries that appear on the MOD's financial management shared service centre (FMSSC) database at the end of each financial year requested and the overall value of those contracts are as follows:

Financial year	*Number of contracts placed*	*Value of contracts placed (£)*
2000-01	24	43,739,770
2001-02	18	30,898,136
2002-03	23	234,386,736
2003-04	35	262,384,899
2004-05	31	62,082,086
2005-06	47	772,553,817
2006-07	47	104,472,128
2007-08	42	240,909,497
2008-09	38	642,538,719
2009-10	34	30,011,545
Total	339	2,423,977,333

More detailed information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51526]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not have monthly targets for job reductions.

As set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), the MOD civilian work force is expected to decrease by around 25,000 to 60,000 by 2015. Of these, we expect around 5,000 to be transferred outside of Defence through the sale of certain trading funds such as the Defence Support Group. The remainder will be managed through natural turnover, a near freeze on external recruitment, outsourcing, the release of certain locally engaged civilian staff working overseas, and the early release of others.

We launched a civilian voluntary early release scheme as a first stage, with a goal of some 4,000 voluntary exits by 31 March 2012. We are currently considering how best to manage subsequent stages of reductions, and will bring forward further proposals in due course in consultation with the Department's trades unions.

The SDSR also set out reductions of around 17,000 service personnel by 2015:

the Royal Navy will decrease by around 5,000 personnel to a total of circa 30,000;

the Army by around 7,000 to circa 95,000;

the Royal Air Force by around 5,000 personnel to circa 33,000.

Some of these will be delivered through natural turnover and some through redundancy. We will continue to recruit to prevent critical skills shortages in certain roles; and maintain the right mix of trained and experienced personnel for the future. The Secretary of State for Defence set out in his statement of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 21WS, the process and timetable for the armed forces redundancy schemes, which will be conducted in a series of tranches. The RAF set out the areas in which it was planning first tranche reductions on 1 March and the Royal Navy and Army on 4 April. Under this tranche the Royal Navy is seeking a reduction of around 1,600, the Army of around 1,000, and the RAF of around 1,100. Individuals will be notified if they have been selected for redundancy in this first tranche on 1 September for the Army and RAF, and 30 September for the Royal Navy.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51416]

Mr Robathan: We do not hold this information in the format requested as we do not record the numbers and costs of mobile communication devices allocated to officials alone.

We do, however, hold information on the combined number and cost of official devices allocated to Ministers, members of the armed forces and civil servants as part of the Defence Fixed Telecommunications Service, which provides for most of our mobile communication requirements. In 2009-10 the total number of mobile communications devices (including mobile phones, BlackBerrys and 3G data cards) in issue at the end of the financial year was 45,306 and their cost (including rental, calls and data services) was some £6.6 million.

Official mobile communication devices are provided for the conduct of business in a similar way to desk-based telephones, a computer or a laptop. Technology-enabled mobile working helps increase our efficiency, support flexible working patterns and drive down administrative costs.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the provision of separate trading accounts for agencies within his Department. [48836]

Mr Robathan: Of the Department's agencies the Trading Fund accounting officers, under the Government Trading Funds Act 1973, have to produce an annual statement of accounts in a form approved by the Treasury. There is no separate departmental policy.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on planning round 11; and if he will make a statement. [51813]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence has concluded planning round 2011. The outcomes of the planning round take forward the decisions made in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). I will make a statement to the House on the progress of implementing the SDSR and the Department's finances shortly.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by London underground services on Government business; how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by London underground services on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50078]

Mr Robathan: Given the nature of Defence business, the need for privacy to be able to read documents and to discuss issues with others often precludes the use of any means of transport where Defence Ministers could be overseen or overheard. This maximises the time available to conduct ministerial duties. In the case of the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), his travel is orchestrated by the Metropolitan police. Since 12 May 2010 the instances where Defence Ministers have therefore been able to use the London underground are set out in the following table:

Minister	*Date last travelled on London underground in official capacity*	*Number of times travelled on London underground in official capacity since 12 May 2010*
Secretary of State for Defence (the right hon. Dr Liam Fox)	n/a	0
Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey)	5 December 2010	2
Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Peter Luff)	2 February 2011	14
Minister for International Security Strategy (Gerald Howarth)	n/a	0
Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (the right hon. Andrew Robathan)	n/a	[1]1
Under Secretary of State for Defence (Lord Astor of Hever)	n/a	0

[1] But paid for personally

From 1 May to 11 May 2010, during the previous Government, no Defence Minister travelled on the London underground on Government business.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has initiated the Managing Staff Surpluses Agreement. [50882]

Mr Robathan: This agreement was drawn up with the trade unions as the basis for managing staff surpluses. Its primary aim is to provide a framework for examining measures with the aim of minimising or avoiding compulsory redundancy and it is consistent with the overarching efficiency and relocation support programme. We have invited the Trade Unions to take part in discussions about possible measures. A number of the measures referred to in the Managing Staff Surpluses Agreement are already in place and the use of voluntary early release, as a principal response to the challenges set by the strategic defence and security review and spending review 2010, and the need to deal with the deficit in the defence budget, is explicitly provided for in that agreement.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to prevent skill shortages developing within his Department as a consequence of staff seeking voluntary release as part of the reduction in the number of civil servants in his Department. [50883]

Mr Robathan: Civil servants provide the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with a broad spectrum of skills ranging from policy and administrative support to nuclear engineering. Each functional skills area is assigned a skills champion to provide a strategic input into civilian skills planning for their function. They advise on major trends and issues affecting their community; seek to enhance professionalism; identify key corporate work force/skills needs; and help shape and influence appropriate interventions to address those needs.

When introducing the Voluntary Early Release Scheme (VERS) we recognised the need to implement it in such a way as to retain critical skills. Early in the process, skills champions identified the skills that needed to be retained by the Department and within individual business areas; their advice was used in the design of the criteria which will be used to select individuals for release.

Skills champions will be asked to review individual release decisions to ensure the Department's wider needs are considered before any offer of voluntary release is made.

All redundancies following the SDSR are a matter of regret, but they are a necessary measure to deal with the deficit in the defence budget.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding has been allocated to meet the costs of future reductions in the number of civil servants in his Department in each of the next four years. [50884]

Mr Robathan: The Voluntary Early Release Scheme closed for applications at the end of March. It is therefore too early to say how much funding will be allocated over this period to meet the costs of reductions of civil servants in the Department.

Departmental Secondment

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of his Department have been *(a)* seconded and *(b)* attached or on loan to Defence Equipment and Support Project teams in its prime contractors since 2005. [50446]

Peter Luff: According to the Ministry of Defence's human resources system, 13 staff from Defence Equipment and Support have had secondments with the private sector since 2008; four staff are currently on secondment. Those secondments began in the following years:

	Number
2008	1
2009	9
2010	3
2011	0

Information about numbers on secondment was not held centrally before December 2007.

Information is not held centrally about the whether the companies to whom these secondments were made were prime contractors. I will write to the hon. Member with this information.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Christopher Pincher:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 5 April 2011 (Official Report, column 759W), about whether the companies to whom Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) staff had been seconded since 2008 were prime contractors.

The 13 DE&S staff were seconded under the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Interchange arrangements which present a useful way of bringing new skills and perspectives into the Civil Service and into the MOD as a partner of industry. Of these, 10 were seconded to companies with whom the MOD held a direct contract at the time. The companies were as follows:

Aerosystems International Ltd
Babcock International Group
Babcock Marine (two staff)
BAE Systems
GPT Special Project Management Ltd
Interserve Defence
MBDA UK Ltd
Remploy Ltd
Serco Defence, Science & Technology

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50223]

Mr Robathan: In order to keep costs as low as possible our Department uses an electronic booking system together with Hogg Robinson Group that search for and provide the cheapest and competitive prices available through their travel search engines.

Our data currently only extend to January 2011 and are provided in the following table:

Form of transport	*Amount spent from May 2010 to January 2011 (£)*
Car	29,935.59
Rail	3,043.53
Bus	0
Commercial aircraft	84,133.49
Private aircraft	0

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51400]

Mr Robathan: External recruitment to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for grades below the senior civil service (SCS) is carried out by the People Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA). Where external recruitment for SCS level posts is required, recruitment agencies may be asked to carry out an initial search for suitable candidates. In financial year (FY) 2010-11 the MOD spent £90,015 on recruitment agency fees in connection with SCS level recruitment.

MOD support to staff who are leaving on redundancy or voluntary release includes access to the outplacement service (MODOPS). MODOPS is a contractor-operated service which helps staff to find work outside the civil service, giving guidance on subjects including job-searching, CV writing, interview preparation and financial planning. MODOPS also provides on line support for a period of time after leaving. In FY 2010-11, the MOD spent £72,515 on MODOPS programmes. These costs reflect the previous contract pricing; a new pricing structure has recently been negotiated which will significantly reduce costs.

The Defence Academy is the primary provider of training and education to civilian personnel, both through courses run on-site, and through the provision of e-learning, including the running of Defence e-learning centres. Specialist and functional training is also procured from a range of external suppliers. Some training is also delivered locally, usually by civilian or military staff for whom training is not a full-time responsibility, but the costs of locally delivered training are not separately identified and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost. Details of expenditure on staff training in FY 2010-11 are not yet available. In FY 2009-10, this expenditure was £65.127 million.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from (i) Syria, (ii) Yemen, (iii) Qatar and (iv) Egypt between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010; [50948]

(2) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from (i) Lebanon, (ii) Israel, (iii) Nigeria and (iv) Uzbekistan between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010; [50949]

(3) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from (i) Afghanistan, (ii) Burma, (iii) Rwanda and (iv) Somalia between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010; [50950]

(4) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from (i) Guinea, (ii) Turkey, (iii) United Arab Emirates and (iv) Chad between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010; [50951]

(5) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from (i) Burundi, (ii) Kenya, (iii) Sudan and (iv) Zimbabwe between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010; [50952]

(6) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from Bahrain between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010; [50953]

(7) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from (i) Tunisia, (ii) Libya, (iii) Kuwait and (iv) Saudi Arabia between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010; [50954]

(8) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from (i) Iraq, (ii) Ivory Coast, (iii) Liberia and (iv) Burkina Faso between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010; [50955]

(9) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department met their counterparts from (i) Sri Lanka and (ii) Pakistan between 2 May 1997 and 1 January 2010. [50956]

Nick Harvey: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HMS Endurance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 1316W, on HMS Endurance, when he expects to announce a decision on the future of HMS Endurance; and whether he has estimated the cost of repair to the present vessel. [50867]

Peter Luff: On current plans, a decision on the future of HMS Endurance is now expected to be taken in 2012. I am withholding information relating to estimated costs as its disclosure would prejudice the Ministry of Defence's commercial interests.

However, as Lord Astor of Hever said in another place on 21 March 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 451-52, HMS Protector will provide the interim replacement ice patrol ship capability for at least the next three years while we consider the long-term future of HMS Endurance.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether depleted uranium munitions have been used by coalition forces in Libya. [50940]

Nick Harvey: None of the weapons supplied to UK armed forces for uses over Libya contain depleted uranium (DU).

Other coalition forces over Libya may choose to use DU munitions fired from aircraft guns against armoured targets if they have that capability, but that is a matter for them alone.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what British forces have been flown into Gibraltar in preparation for use in military operations over Libya; and if he will make a statement; [52036]

(2) which ships of *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* navies of other countries have called at his Department's bases in Gibraltar en route to military operations over Libya; [52037]

(3) what assessment he has made of the role of his Department's bases in Gibraltar on military operations over Libya. [52038]

Nick Harvey: No British forces have been flown to Gibraltar in preparation for operations over Libya. HM Naval Base has provided support to HMS York, HMS Westminster, HMS Liverpool and to HM Canadian Ship Charlottetown as they deployed. HMS York, HMS Westminster, HMS Cumberland and USS Providence and USS Florida also visited Gibraltar when returning from operations off Libya.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review confirmed the importance of the Permanent Joint Operating Base in Gibraltar to the UK's ability to mount a range of deployments from there. Gibraltar's response to the demands placed on it by current operations has been impressive and the experience clearly confirms Gibraltar's operational significance.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have discussed the use of Raptor in Libya; [52046]

(2) whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have discussed with the armed forces the use of Raptor in Libya. [52047]

Mr Robathan: Ministers regularly discuss the provision of capability in support of current operations with military commanders and officials. For reasons of operational security, it is not our policy to comment on specific capabilities; we will keep our operationalrequirements for all capabilities under constant review to ensure that they continue to meet our mission objectives.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have discussed with the armed forces any transfer to Libya of capabilities deployed in Afghanistan. [52053]

Nick Harvey: There are a number of capabilities deployed in Afghanistan that are common to those being used in support of Op Ellamy in Libya, including reconnaissance, air to air refuelling, ground attack and surveillance capabilities.

Various discussions at an official level have occurred between the Department and Single Service Commands to determine what assets were available to deliver the capabilities required to enforce UNSCR 1970 and 1973.

To date, the only equipment transferred from Afghanistan to Op Ellamy has been a number of dual-mode Brimstone missiles, given the higher demand for this type of weapon on Op Ellamy. This has not created a capability gap in Afghanistan.

Military Aircraft: Operating Costs

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost per hour of using the *(a)* Harrier, *(b)* GR4 Tornado and *(c)* Apache in close air support operations. [50564]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* The Harrier is no longer in operational service. The estimated average full cost per funded flying hour for financial year 2010-11 is £35,000 for Tornado GR4 and £42,000 for Apache AH1. These figures include forward and depth servicing, fuel costs, crew costs, training costs, cost of capital charge, depreciation and amortisation.

The average marginal cost per funded flying hour for financial year 2010-11 is £5,000 for both Tornado GR4 and Apache. The marginal costs include only direct running costs, which are principally made up of consumables like fuel costs.

Military Decorations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the review of the rules governing the award of military medals will report. [52008]

Mr Robathan: The Government are undertaking a review of the rules governing the awarding of military medals in line with its commitment in the programme for government. The review is currently with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister for final evaluation. I hope to announce the conclusions of the review shortly after Easter.

MOD Sealand

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 948W, on Sealand, what recent discussions he has had with the Defence Support Group (DSG) management on the proposed visit to DSG at Sealand by the hon. Member for Alyn and Deeside. [52546]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State for Defence has held no discussions with Defence Support Group (DSG) management on the proposed visit to DSG Sealand by the hon. Member for Alyn and Deeside, and nor has any other Minister.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 948W, on Sealand, whether the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans had been informed of the proposed visit to the Defence Support Group at Sealand by the hon. Member for Alyn and Deeside. [52547]

Mr Robathan: I was unaware of the hon. Gentleman's wish to visit the Defence Support Group at Sealand until he raised the matter with the Secretary of State for Defence during Defence questions on 14 March 2011.

Navy: Officers

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely number of sea-going commands for Royal Navy officers of the rank of captain in *(a)* 2015 and *(b)* 2020. [51118]

Nick Harvey: On current planning it is expected that there will be six sea-going commands for the rank of Captain Royal Navy in 2015 and five in 2020; in 2015 they are expected to be HMS Ocean, HMS Bulwark, HMS Albion, a T23 frigate and a T45 destroyer, and the Ice Patrol Ship. In 2020 the five are expected to include one of the two new Queen Elizabeth Class Carriers, HMS Bulwark or HMS Albion, a T23 frigate and a T45 destroyer, and the Ice Patrol Ship.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the planned primary roles of the Nimrod MR4 can be carried out by *(a)* unmanned aerial vehicles and *(b)* satellite surveillance. [51306]

Peter Luff: The UK currently has no unmanned aerial systems or satellite surveillance capability that can perform the primary maritime patrol aircraft tasks planned to be undertaken by the Nimrod MRA4 programme. We do however have a range of other maritime and air assets that are able to provide similar capability.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by how much the Tornado GR4 has exceeded its planned fatigue life expectancy. [51307]

Peter Luff: The Tornado GR4 aircraft entered service with the RAF in 1998. Since that date, no Tornado aircraft has exceeded its fatigue life.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* MR1 and *(b)* MR2 Nimrod aircraft have been withdrawn from service and destroyed in the last 12 months. [51375]

Peter Luff: The decisions to withdraw the Nimrod R1 and MR2 were taken by the previous Government.

No Nimrod R1 aircraft have been withdrawn from service or destroyed in the last twelve months.

The fleet of 14 Nimrod MR2 aircraft were withdrawn from service on 31 March 2010. Three of the aircraft were sold for recycling by the Disposal Services Authority, generating receipts for the UK taxpayer.

Five complete aircraft, one nose section and one forward fuselage have been sold to Aviation museums across the UK, and one aircraft has been gifted to the RAF Museum in Cosford.

One aircraft was transferred to the Defence Fire training and development centre to be used for training. The remaining aircraft have yet to be disposed of.

Nuclear Submarines

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has considered purchasing reactors for any Trident replacement submarines from the US; and if he will make a statement. [51457]

Peter Luff: The 2006 White Paper on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent set out our intention to build the replacement Vanguard submarines in the UK, for reasons of national sovereignty, nuclear safety regulation, operational effectiveness and maintenance of key UK scientific and industrial skills. This includes the reactors.

Marine Petrol Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his US counterparts on the future lease of *(a)* Poseidon-8 and *(b)* RC-135 Rivet Joint. [51374]

Peter Luff: We have had discussions with the US Government on maritime patrol aircraft capability but currently have no plans to lease Poseidon-8 aircraft. However, as stated, following the decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service, we are keeping our future requirements for maritime patrol aircraft under review. In March 2010, the Ministry of Defence signed an agreement with the US Government to purchase three Rivet Joint aircraft and associated training and ground systems as a replacement for the Nimrod R1.

RFA Fort George

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors he took into account in deciding to decommission RFA Fort George rather than an older fleet replenishment ship. [51119]

Peter Luff: RFA Fort George is one of only two Auxiliary oilers replenishment in service with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and both ships are the same age. The decision to withdraw Fort George from service instead of her sister ship Fort Victoria took into account the material state of each ship, their respective maintenance requirements and the estimated savings that the retirement of each ship would deliver.

RFA Largs Bay

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 354W, on amphibious vehicles, how much aid was delivered by RFA Largs Bay; and how many people received medical treatment facilitated by RFA Largs Bay and her crew. [51257]

Nick Harvey: In support of the United Nations-led relief efforts following the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, RFA Largs Bay delivered 595 linear metres of relief supplies and equipment, including fork lift trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles and corrugated sheeting, together with the required cargo handling and beach landing capabilities. These capabilities facilitated the delivery of much-needed medical supplies to communities otherwise unreachable by road and air following the earthquake. It is not possible to identify specifically how many people benefited from this. Largs Bay did not land personnel in Haiti, and no direct medical treatment was provided to Haitians onboard the ship.

Special Forces: Manpower

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East of 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 1022W, on marines, what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions to the size of the *(a)* Royal Marines and *(b)* Parachute Brigade on the overall size and recruitment pool of special forces units; and if he will make a statement. [51193]

Nick Harvey: As highlighted in the strategic defence and security review, the immense contribution of our highly professional special forces is necessarily largely unreported. It is the long-standing policy of the Ministry of Defence not to comment on matters concerning UK special forces.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on revisiting the outcomes of the strategic defence and security review. [51812]

Dr Fox: We have received a number of representations including letters from individual citizens and Members of Parliament, to Ministers and the Department directly and in the press, and various interventions on the Floor of the House.

Tornado Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urgent operational requirements have been commissioned for the Tornado GR4 in the last 12 months. [51302]

Peter Luff: Two Urgent Operational Requirements for Afghanistan have been approved for the Tornado GR4 in the last 12 months.

Tornado and Harrier Aircrafts

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of staff hours required in maintenance per flying hour was for the *(a)* Tornado GR4 and *(b)* Harrier GR9 in the latest period for which figures are available. [51183]

Peter Luff: For the period 1 December 2010 to 28 February 2011, the maintenance staff hours per flying hour for the Tornado GR4 squadrons, including the Operational Conversion Unit, was 5.49 hours.

Harrier GR9 was withdrawn from service in December 2010. The latest period for which figures are available for Harrier GR9 is 1 July to 30 September 2010. The maintenance staff hours per flying hour were 6.07 hours.

Trident

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the Trident replacement Initial gate report will include details of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* technical matters considered for each of the four successor design options during the concept phase; [51175]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost differential between each of the four design options considered during the concept phase of the Trident replacement programme. [51176]

Peter Luff: The initial gate parliamentary report will outline the work that has taken place since the parliamentary vote of March 2007 and an overview of the analysis of the options investigated during the concept phase. We will provide a description and revised cost estimate of the selected design in the initial gate parliamentary report, but not for those designs that have been rejected.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected budget is for design and technology development during the Trident replacement programme assessment phase. [51458]

Peter Luff: I am withholding details of the projected budget as to release the figures would prejudice commercial interests.

War Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assumptions he made in his revision of the forecast of war pensions payments between November 2010 and March 2011. [51562]

Mr Robathan: The main supply estimate and supplementary estimates for financial year 2010-11 for war pensions benefits did not change and remained at £972 million. However, the unaudited end of year forecast for financial year 2010-11 is now £935 million. This equates to a 3.8% reduction, which reflects the fall in the number of benefits paid and new claims processed each year due to the age of the war pensions scheme's customer base and the introduction of the new Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme in April 2005.

The estimate for financial year 2011-12 prepared in January 2010 was £965 million. This was reduced by 2.8% to £938 million in January 2011 based on an overall 4% reduction due to mortality rates in the number of claimants or potential claimants and the change from retail prices index to consumer prices index as the basis for indexation.

Warships

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the operational tasking is of *(a)* HMS Albion, *(b)* HMS Bulwark, *(c)* RFA Lyme Bay, *(d)* RFA Cardigan Bay and *(e)* RFA Mounts Bay. [51121]

Nick Harvey: HMS Albion, RFA Cardigan Bay and RFA Mounts Bay are part of the Responsive Force Task Group which is currently planned to deploy as part of the wider Cougar deployment on 26 April.

RFA Lyme Bay is currently deployed on Op Telic and HMS Bulwark is in Devonport prior to an assisted maintenance period.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships were tasked with maritime security in UK waters in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and which ships were so tasked. [51123]

Nick Harvey: When not conducting specific National Operational tasking all Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships conduct maritime security in UK waters.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in disposing of one Bay-class ship; and if he will make a statement. [51124]

Peter Luff: There has been significant interest from foreign Governments in acquiring RFA Largs Bay and I am pleased to confirm that the Australian Government have been selected as the preferred bidder. Officials are now working with the Australian Department of Defence to complete the sale.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Health Hazards

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reports the Civil Aviation Authority has received of airline pilots or other air crew using oxygen masks in circumstances where poisonous fumes were released into passenger aircraft in the last five years for which figures are available. [51337]

Mrs Villiers: Incidents where aircrew have required the use of oxygen masks are reported to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the UK's independent aviation regulator, through the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme (MORS). The following table gives details of the number of reports for the last five years..

It is not possible to determine from those reports whether the use of oxygen was related to poisonous fumes or non-poisonous fumes or smoke, and aircrew are trained to don their oxygen masks as a precaution. The Committee on Toxicity concluded in 2007 that the evidence available did not establish a link between cabin air and pilot ill health, but nor did it rule one out. In-flight research by Cranfield university to fill that evidence gap by assembling data on substances in cabin air and in what concentrations will be published soon.

	Reports of use of oxygen masks (UK passenger flights)	*Number of UK passenger flights*	*Number of passengers carried on UK aircraft*
2006	17	1,188,846	124,900,379
2007	40	1,202,000	128,750,734
2008	45	1,193,583	128,958,731
2009	33	1,125,344	123,891,567
2010	28	1,101,193	[1]121,232,731
Total	163	5,810,966	627,734,142

[1] Estimate

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of introducing regulations to require the operation of air quality detection systems on commercial aircraft carrying fee-paying passengers. [51338]

Mrs Villiers: The introduction of such regulations on board a commercial aircraft is the responsibility of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), rather than the UK CAA.

Cranfield university is completing research into real time sampling of cabin air to determine what chemicals occur in cabin air and in what concentrations. This research will be published soon. We expect this research to inform future decisions on the matters raised by my hon. Friend and will ensure that EASA are made aware of its conclusions.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the incidences of exposure of aircraft passengers to the organophosphate TCP in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [51339]

Mrs Villiers: Cranfield university are completing research into real time sampling of cabin air to determine what chemicals occur in cabin air and in what concentrations. This includes sampling for the presence of organophosphates, including TCP. This research will be published soon.

BRB (Residuary)

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* savings will be made and *(b)* costs will be incurred from abolishing BRB (Residuary) Ltd in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [46480]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are seeking powers through the Public Bodies Bill to make reforms to a number of public bodies including BRB (Residuary) Ltd. Subject to the enactment of that Bill, the Department for Transport expects to be in a position to abolish BRB (Residuary) in 2013.

Exact future costs and savings cannot be predicted with certainty. However, we estimate the net administration costs of abolishing the company may be in the order of £1 million. Thereafter, the Department estimates that savings in the order of £2.5 million to £2.8 million per annum are achievable in administration expenditure.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50701]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. Since that date, no contracts have been signed with Lockheed Martin by either the Department or its associated public bodies.

Departmental Manpower

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff are employed full-time in his Department to undertake work on or relating to *(a)* fossil fuels, *(b)* biofuels and *(c)* electric vehicles. [46353]

Norman Baker: Staff across the Department for Transport (DfT) work on these issues; the majority are in Greener Transport and International directorate, including:

14 working in the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, focusing on ultra-low emission vehicles. These staff are drawn from DfT, the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Energy Savings Trust.

18 work in the Low Carbon Fuels Team, focusing on renewable transport fuels.

Other staff across DfT and other Government Departments work on issues that relate to these subject areas as part of their jobs.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51428]

Norman Baker: The number of mobile communication devices and the cost is set out in the following table for both the central Department and for its seven Executive agencies. Mobile phones and BlackBerrys are normally provided on an individual basis, although some will be for team use. Some 3G data devices are provided to business units to facilitate remote data capture.

	Mobile communication devices	Number	Cost 2010-11 (£)
DFT(C)	Mobile phones, BlackBerrys, and 3G data devices	1,481	[1]300,246
HA	Mobile phones, BlackBerrys	2,547	[2]550,000
DVLA	Mobile phones, 3G data devices	641	71,237
DSA	Mobile phones, BlackBerrys, and 3G data devices	264	58,098
VOSA	Mobile phones	1,721	[2]213,360
VCA	Mobile phones, 3G data devices	165	58,045
MCA	Mobile phones, BlackBerrys	770	188,571
GCDA	Mobile phones, BlackBerrys	168	98,835

[1] The DFT(C) spend excludes VAT.

[2] HA and VOSA spend is for 2009-10. Roll-out of the HA BlackBerry service was just beginning and device and usage costs fall into 2010-11.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since his appointment. [48415]

Norman Baker: The requested information is provided in the following table:

			Spend (£)
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Central Department			
London HQ	12,370.00	12,328.00	[1]9,295.00
Air Accidents Investigation Branch	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Marine Accident Investigation Branch	0.00	0.00	[3]8.00
Rail Accident Investigation Branch	[4]2,150.47	[4]1,396.00	[4]1,883.00
Executive agencies			
Driving Standards Agency	[5]7,500.00	[5]8,420.00	[5]6,110.00
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	5,361.00	2,449.00	0.00
Government Car and Despatch Agency	1,855.00	0.00	0.00
Highways Agency	[6]57,861.81	[6]46,645.00	[6]41,975.00
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	[7]22.99	0.00	[7]10.00
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Vehicle Certification Agency	279.79	0.00	0.00

[1] Includes termination cost of maintenance agreement. Expenditure on plants is now set to be approximately £450 per annum with effect from March 2011.

[2] Nil spend on indoor and outdoor plants. Above excludes grounds maintenance contract.

[3] Relates to purchase of one plant for "Families Room" (where MAIB speak to bereaved relatives etc).

[4] Includes purchase and maintenance of indoor and outdoor plants, majority of costs relate to maintenance.

[5] Relates to spend at agency HQ and Eastgate House, Newcastle. Following contract termination and expiry future expenditure at these sites will be nil. The agency has contracts for the provision of grounds maintenance services over its operational estate. The amount spent on outdoor plants and trees can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[6] The Highways Agency has been working to cancel all remaining contracts for the provision of plants. In most cases charges were incurred due to contractual obligations and prohibitive cancellation fees reflecting the initial capital outlay by the contractor on plants. Contracts for four sites remain in place, due notice has been given to the suppliers to cancel contracts and end dates agreed.

[7] Relates to winter bedding plants. Costs at agency HQ and training centre are built into the maintenance contract of the estate and are not easily identifiable.

[8] The information requested is not recorded and could be only obtained at disproportionate cost.

Note:

2009-10 data cover the period from 1 April 2009 February 2010.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of Passenger Focus/Passengers' Council. [48764]

Mrs Villiers: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The budget of Passenger Focus for 2011-12 is £4.7 million which compares to a budget in 2010-11 of £8.2 million. We estimate that the budget for the remainder of the spending review period to 2014-15, will remain at similar levels to that set for 2011-12.

Departmental Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47064]

Norman Baker: An historical entitlement to first class UK rail travel is retained by higher grades in the central Department and five of its seven agencies. However, the current policy of this Department and its agencies is to require all travel to be booked at standard class, irrespective of grade, unless there are compelling reasons to travel first class or, where a first class discount or advance ticket is cheaper.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to fund research on international experience in reducing the number of personal injury claims relating to motor insurance. [51096]

Mike Penning: There are no current plans to do so. However we are considering the Transport Select Committee's recommendation included in its report on the cost of motor insurance.

Driving Tests

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the feasibility of replacing the Pass Plus advanced driving course with other means of proving competence to insurers. [51098]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency has been reviewing both the purpose and content of the Pass Plus scheme. The agency is also continuing to explore with the insurance industry other options for improving market confidence so that we can maximise both the incentives and take up of post-test training initiatives.

Driving: Young People

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the merits of deploying and publicising new technology to assess how cars are driven by young drivers for the purposes of reducing casualty rates. [51097]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has been in regular contact with vehicle manufacturers and suppliers on developments in new vehicle technology, including driver information systems and parental controls. I recognise that technology which helps to demonstrate how young drivers are driving provides important information on behaviour and their insurance and casualty risks. The insurance industry is already starting to make use of technologies and new products, where young drivers are willing to accept restrictions or training. The Government are keen to work with the insurance industry and others to look at new approaches and are planning several seminars on ways of reducing the risks of young drivers with key stakeholders.

Greater Anglia Railways

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has allocated to the costs of tendering for the Greater Anglia franchise. [50872]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport anticipates that the costs of tendering for the Greater Anglia franchise will be in the order of £718,000.

Great Western Main Line: Electrification

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of not electrifying the Great Western main line between Cardiff and Swansea. [45244]

Mrs Villiers: The electrification to Cardiff and the delivery of the new train fleet will boost the south Wales economy with more seats for passengers and faster trains. Swansea to London trains will complete the journey 20 minutes faster in two hours and 39 minutes. This can be expected significantly to enhance the attractiveness of the area for inward investment.

Because the south Wales main line is constrained by speed limitations dictated by the geometry of the line, there would be no time saving benefits from electrifying the line from Cardiff to Swansea.

High Speed Two

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a map of the revised proposed route of High Speed 2 marking the location of all *(a)* tunnels, *(b)* embankments, *(c)* deep cuttings, *(d)* properties that will require noise insulation and *(e)* properties facing extremely high levels of noise. [43661]

Mr Philip Hammond: A set of plan and profile maps have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. They contain information on tunnels, embankments and deep cuttings. Maps of properties that will require noise insulation and those facing high levels of noise (73 dB and above) can be found in the 'Appraisal of Sustainability', published as part of the high speed consultation, and copies of which have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

LEK Consulting

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has paid to LEK Consulting in 2011 to date. [49876]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* The Department for Transport has paid a total of £138,062.50 to LEK Consulting in 2011. LEK Consulting has been appointed to develop and evaluate alternative structures for railway operation focusing on cost reduction as part of the Rail Value for Money Study. The contract was placed following a mini-competition under the Department for Transport's modelling and appraisal framework.

Level Crossings

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department provides guidance on the maximum acceptable time for a level crossing to be closed to road traffic in any one hour. [52543]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not provide guidance on the maximum acceptable time for a level crossing to be down in any hour. Management of level crossings is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. Additionally the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes guidance for level crossings on its website. The hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions the Ely level crossing has been closed to trains in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and on how many occasions damage occurred to the crossing barrier as a result of road vehicles. [52542]

Mrs Villiers: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. Network Rail can be contacted at the following address:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Motorcycles

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many submissions he has received since June 2010 from *(a)* motorcycle trainers and *(b)* provisional motorcycle licence holders on (i) the national network of multi-purpose test centres and (ii) a single motorcycle test event; and what arrangements he has made for representation of the views of motorcycle trainers and provisional motorcycle licence holders on the motorcycle test review working group; [51575]

(2) what the name is of each current and former member of the motorcycle test review working group. [51576]

Mike Penning: A public consultation was held on the scope of the motorcycle test review in June-July 2010. There were 489 responses, of which 105 were from motorcycle trainers and 30 from learner motorcyclists. 49 of the submissions from motorcycle trainers and 11 from learner motorcyclists mentioned the national network of multi-purpose test centres. 19 of the submissions from the motorcycle trainers mentioned a single motorcycle test event, but none of the submissions from learners.

The motorcycle test review working group and technical sub group include a number of representatives of motorcycle trainers and motorcycle user groups.

Individual names of people who have served on working groups are private data, but we will seek the agreement of all members to their disclosure and expect to provide all names in the main review report. The organisations represented on the motorcycle test review working group and technical sub-group are as follows:

Members of the working group

Department for Transport
Driving Standards Agency
Motorcycle Industry Association
Motorcycle Industry Trainers Association
Motorcycle Action Group
British Motorcyclists Federation
Public and Commercial Services Union
Road Safety Great Britain
Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety was also involved in the initial stages of the review.

Members of the technical sub group

Department for Transport
Driving Standards Agency
Motorcycle Industry Association
Motorcycle Industry Trainers Association
Motorcycle Action Group
Public and Commercial Services Union
Biketrain Wales
CamRider
Streetwise Training

Fast-Trak Training was also involved in the initial stages of the review.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member of Ceredigion of 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 245-46W, on motorcycles: driving tests, what the location is of each multi-purpose test centre; how many are *(a)* leased and *(b)* publicly owned; what the length of each lease agreement is; what the break options in each case are; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of termination in each such case. [51600]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency has 52 Multi Purpose Test Centres (MPTC). Of these:

45 are leasehold properties of which five are ground leases
Six are freehold properties
One property is subject to a Civil Estate Occupation Agreement (CEOA)

The location and lease information of each MPTC has been placed in the Libraries of the House. DSA has not estimated the cost of terminating each lease agreement. To end any lease agreement DSA would have to activate break clauses under the terms of the lease, and to do this successfully the Agency must comply with all the lease covenants. Actioning a break clause does not depend on negotiating a financial settlement.

Ebbw Valley Line

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of passengers using the Ebbw Valley Line over the next Network Rail control period. [48108]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has made high level estimates of the change in passenger numbers between London and Wales. However, the Department looks to the Welsh Assembly Government and the train operator, Arriva Trains Wales, for detailed route estimates.

Parking: Disabled

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to provide for enforcement of disabled parking bays. [51252]

Norman Baker: A parking bay for the use of Blue Badge holders only, when put in place with a Traffic Regulation Order made under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, is fully enforceable. Where the local authority has Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) power under the Traffic Management Act 2004, the local authority may serve a higher level Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) if a vehicle is parked without clearly displaying a valid Blue Badge. Where the local authority does not have CPE power, it would be for the police to take enforcement action. In addition to any PCN or Fixed Penalty Notice issued, if the motorist is misusing someone else's Blue Badge to park in the bay, they could be prosecuted and fined up to £1,000.

Parking enforcement in private car parks is a matter for car park operators and their customers. However, I wrote to the main supermarkets on 22 March 2011, to further encourage them to actively monitor and enforce their disabled parking bays. I wait to hear their plans.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce legislative proposals to prevent local authorities from setting scales of the fees for parking permits based solely on vehicle emissions. [51206]

Norman Baker: We have no plans to do so. Parking charges are a matter for the relevant highway authority.

Ports

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 98W, on ports, for what purposes the proceeds from the proposed sale of the Port of Dover will be used. [51625]

Mike Penning: No decision on the application by Dover Harbour Board for a transfer of the port undertaking under the Ports Act 1991 has yet been taken. Only in the event of a favourable decision would the port be for sale.

Trust ports are not owned by the Government, though the Ports Act provides for a levy on the proceeds of the initial sale to be payable into the Consolidated Fund.

Railway Heritage Committee

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* costs will be incurred and *(b)* savings will be made from abolishing the Railway Heritage Committee in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15; [46482]

(2) what residual functions will remain following the abolition of the Railway Heritage Committee; which organisation will carry out each such function; what the estimated costs of each such function are; and what transfer of funds will be made to each organisation to carry out each such function; [46483]

(3) what the budget for the Railway Heritage Committee *(a)* was in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 and *(b)* will be for (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13, (C) 2013-14 and (D) 2014-15. [46652]

Mrs Villiers: The Railway Heritage Committee's (RHC) budget was £140,000 in 2009-10 and £114,000 in 2010-11. The RHC's budget for 2011-12 is £99,974.69.

We currently intend to abolish the Railway Heritage Committee (RHC) towards the end of 2011-12, though this will depend on the parliamentary progress of the Public Bodies Bill. Discussions are continuing with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the transfer of functions to the Board of Trustees of the Science Museum. The abolition of the RHC is expected to involve one-off costs associated with the termination of the contract of one employee of BRB (Residuary) Ltd. If the power of designation is transferred, modest ongoing costs are likely to be incurred, most of which are likely to be absorbed by the Museum of Science and Industry.

Railways: Cost-effectiveness

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings he has had with members of the McNulty review on value for money in the rail industry in 2011; and on what dates such meetings took place. [49885]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 29 March 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), met with Sir Roy McNulty and Ian Dobbs on the following dates:

17 January
21 February
8 March
21 March

In addition, the Secretary of State for Transport attended an industry seminar organised by Sir Roy McNulty on 9 March 2011.

Railways: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on local and regional rail services, what estimate he has made of the economic effects of changes to funding arrangements for local rail schemes up to April 2015. [45257]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport will consider taking on the funding of local and regional rail services currently funded by local authorities and passenger transport executives (PTEs) from April 2015 rather than April 2014. Changing this date results in the promoters having to fund these services for a further year at a total additional cost of between £1.0 and £1.2 million for the year 2014-15.

Railways: Kent

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger rail services on High Speed 1 will run between London and points east of *(a)* Ashford and *(b)* Faversham under the new timetable for Southeastern passenger rail services. [50579]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 4 April 2011]*: Services which operate east of Faversham serve Whitstable, Herne Bay, Birchington, Margate and Broadstairs. Services which operate east of Ashford to Dover Priory serve Folkestone West and Folkestone Central. Services which operate east of Ashford to Margate serve Canterbury West, Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

The number of Southeastern high-speed rail services which will operate east of Ashford International station and Faversham station from the May 2011 timetable change will not differ from the current specified level of services.

41 high-speed services currently operate daily on a Monday to Friday to and from London to destinations east of Ashford International and Faversham in the current Southeastern timetable.

The two services from St Pancras in the evening peak which currently terminate at Faversham are scheduled to be diverted to Maidstone West in the May 2011 timetable.

Railways: Overcrowding

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps he has taken to reduce overcrowding on the railways in Greater Manchester. [49533]

Mrs Villiers: An additional 16 carriages are planned to commence operation in December 2011 enhancing capacity in the Greater Manchester area.

This capacity will be delivered through the Department's HLOS'—high-level output specification—'programme, with eight additional carriages being introduced into the Northern franchise and a further eight carriages introduced on the Liverpool—Manchester—Nottingham route through the East Midlands franchise.

The Department is also planning to introduce the new electric trains to the Transpennine Express franchise in December 2013. These vehicles will increase capacity between Manchester and Scotland as well other Transpennine services through a cascade of the displaced rolling stock currently operating on that route.

The Department is also discussing the provision of further vehicles to ease crowding in the Northern franchise area, but the services and dates on which this capacity may be added have not yet been finalised.

Railways: Suffolk

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the potential *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of electrification of the rail line between Peterborough and Haughley Junction. [52544]

Mrs Villiers: The Government support a progressive electrification of the rail network in England and Wales as a way of reducing the cost of running the railways, increasing passenger comfort and reducing carbon. We continue to work with Network Rail to look at the case for further electrification in the next rail control period starting in 2014.

Rescue Services

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what impact assessment he has undertaken in respect of the abolition of the Maritime Incident Response Group; and if he will make a statement. [51172]

Mike Penning: We are finalising a risk assessment on the review of Maritime Incident Response Group which we hope to publish shortly.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation was undertaken with the Fire and Rescue Service on withdrawal of funding for the Maritime Incident Response Group by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and if he will make a statement. [51173]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is in the process of consulting with the Fire and Rescue Services about the future of the Maritime Incident Response Group. Final decisions on future arrangements will be taken once this consultation is complete.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected monetary value is of the contract to provide a replacement emergency towing vessel service; and when he expects the contract to be let. [51509]

Mike Penning: The Government do not expect to let a contract for a replacement service once the current Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) contract expires in September 2011. However, the MCA are working with interested parties to assess how alternative localised arrangements could work following the expiry of the existing contract.

Rescue Services: Finance

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the withdrawal of funding for the Maritime Incident Response Group by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and if he will make a statement. [51171]

Mike Penning: As announced last year, we are discussing with a number of interested parties, including the Department for Communities and Local Government, the options for the Maritime Incident Response Group in the future.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reduction in the level of funding for the Maritime Incident Response Group has been authorised by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [51174]

Mike Penning: We will await the outcome of the consultation currently being held before a level of future funding is determined.

Roads: Motor Sports

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the merits of amending Section 12 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to permit a local authority to close roads for the purpose of holding a motor racing event; and if he will make a statement. [50059]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 31 March 2011]*: I am currently considering the case for making it easier for local authorities to close their roads for major on-road sporting events and intend to consult in due course.

Shipping: Contracts

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to tender a replacement contract for the provision of emergency towing vessels. [50909]

Mike Penning: There are no plans to tender a replacement contract for the provision of emergency towing vessels.

Between now and the end of September the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will be working with interested parties in the UK to assess the arrangements following expiry of the existing contract.

We will provide information on the outcomes of these discussions in due course.

Shipping: Emissions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on raising international climate finance from the regulation of shipping emissions. [51234]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport has regular meetings with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change at which various matters are discussed including proposals to reduce emissions from the transport sector.

Transport: Emissions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department made prior to the introduction of the draft local authority basic carbon tool of its suitability for calculating non-road-based transport carbon emissions. [51092]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport undertook extensive research with local authorities, and used in-house analysts, to assess the suitability of a basic carbon tool to calculate emissions from small scale transport interventions. The draft tool can be used to assess emissions from non-road based interventions, including introducing travel plans and behaviour change initiatives. Its introduction has been welcomed by local authorities.

Travel: Concessions

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of standardising the age at which a person is considered an adult for the purposes of *(a)* concessionary travel fares, *(b)* taxation rates for clothing, *(c)* purchasing cigarettes, *(d)* driving, *(e)* concessionary entertainment rates and *(f)* other purposes. [50869]

Norman Baker: There are no plans to standardise the age at which a person is considered an adult for these purposes.

(a) The fare structure and the level of fares charged by bus operators, including the age at which discounts on buses are offered to young people, are matters for the commercial judgment of operators.

(b) Certain goods and services are reduced-rated, zero-rated, exempt, or outside the scope of VAT. Clothing that is made for young people under the age of 14 is zero-rated. Agreements with our European partners do not allow us to introduce new zero rates or extend existing ones.

(c) The age of sale of tobacco products in England was raised in 2007 from 16 to 18 years. There are no plans to change or review these arrangements.

(d) There are no plans to change the legal minimum age for driving.

(e) A range of promotional and discounted rates for entertainment and other purposes are available on a commercial basis—the age at which they are available is a matter for those promoting the discount or concession.

Waterloo Station

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cost-benefit analysis his Department has undertaken in respect of reopening Waterloo International railway terminal for *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international rail services. [49848]

Mrs Villiers: The Government wish to see the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo International terminal brought back into use for domestic passenger services. The Department for Transport is engaged in negotiations with Stagecoach South West Trains to agree the best solution in terms of operational effectiveness and value for money for taxpayers. A cost-benefit analysis will be undertaken to ensure that any agreement does represent value for money.

No cost-benefit analysis has been undertaken by the Department with regards to any operation of international services into Waterloo International.

HEALTH

GP Pathfinder Consortia

19. **Mr Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress by GP pathfinder consortia in delivering improvements in NHS services. [52567]

23. **Richard Graham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress by GP pathfinder consortia in delivering improvements in NHS services. [52571]

Mr Lansley: I can report that pathfinder consortia now cover almost 90% of the country. These consortia are receiving support through the Pathfinder Learning Network, which is an online resource offering a range of tools and resources. The network includes a number of examples of where clinician-led commissioning is already delivering benefits for patients.

Patient Choice

24. **Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to extend the choice patients have over the treatment they receive from the NHS. [52572]

Mr Lansley: The Government have consulted on proposals to give patients greater choice and control over their care and treatment. We have deferred publication of our response to the consultation to enable us to take into account the results of the listening exercise.

Health and Social Care Bill

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what amendments he plans to table to the Health and Social Care Bill. [52561]

Mr Lansley: As I told the House on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 767-69, we are taking the opportunity presented by a natural break in the legislative process to pause, listen, reflect and improve our plans for modernisation of the health service.

We will consider what amendments are required in light of this.

Hospital Services

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he has made for continuity of provision of existing hospital services under his proposed reforms of the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [52569]

Mr Lansley: Commissioners will remain responsible for securing health services to meet the needs of their populations.

Under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill, Monitor would support commissioners in this through the additional regulation of 'designated services'. This will give additional safeguards for services not currently provided under existing legislation.

As a last resort, in the event of failure, continued provision of 'designated services' would be secured through a process of special administration.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Lancashire

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the outcome of the pilot studies on accident and emergency and urgent care centre nomenclature in *(a)* East Lancashire, *(b)* Manchester and *(c)* Salisbury to be published; [51598]

(2) To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken in the NHS in the *(a)* North West and *(b)* South West to standardise the definition of (a) accident and emergency and (b) urgent care centre for the purposes of assisting commissioners and creating clarity for patients; and if he will make a statement. [51599]

Mr Simon Burns: Work is being carried out by NHS North West working with colleagues in NHS South West to look at the possibility of creating a common offer for England to ease navigation of the urgent and emergency care system for patients. No date has been set for publication of the findings.

Air Ambulance Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with what *(a)* clinical and *(b)* operational standards his Department requires air ambulance services to comply. [51814]

Mr Simon Burns: From April 2011 providers of independent sector ambulance services (including air ambulances) are required to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The CQC is the independent regulator of health and adult social care providers in England. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) all providers of regulated activities, including national health service and independent providers, have to register with CQC and meet a set of essential requirements of safety and quality.

The 16 registration requirements reflect the essential levels of safety and quality of care that people should be able to expect, and are built around the main risks inherent in the provision of health and adult social care services. These are set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he expects all air ambulance providers to be registered with the Care Quality Commission. [51815]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 1 April 2011, transport services by means of a vehicle which is designed for the primary purpose of carrying a person who requires treatment, has been a regulated activity under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010. The Care Quality Commission is currently completing the registration of air ambulance and other providers requiring registration from April 2011.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding each ambulance trust has provided to air ambulance charities in England in each of the last 10 years. [51816]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

In order to strike an appropriate balance between the cost to operate air ambulances, and the role they can play in assisting the national health service in delivering emergency care, the NHS has—since 1 April 2002—normally met the cost of clinical staff on air ambulances. However, it remains for NHS trusts to decide whether they provide any additional funding to air ambulance charities.

Babies: Bottles

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to implement the provisions of Commission Directive 2011/8/EU restricting the production, import and retail of polycarbonate infant bottles manufactured using Bisphenol A; and if he will make a statement. [51259]

Anne Milton: Commission Directive 2011/8/EU was implemented in the United Kingdom by the Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI2011/231) and separate, equivalent, Regulations relating to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women did not have a breast scan until more than one year after their 50th birthday in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and how many such women were subsequently diagnosed with breast cancer. [51027]

Paul Burstow: The Information requested is not held centrally. In England, the NHS Breast Screening Programme invites women aged 50 to 70 to be screened every three years. To make the service more convenient and accessible to women, 80% of the programme is provided by mobile screening units, which visit different areas covered by the local breast screening service in a three-year cycle. Therefore, women do not necessarily receive their first invitation in the year of their 50th birthday. As long as a woman is registered with a general practitioner, she should be invited for breast screening before her 53rd birthday. The objective is to cover as many women as possible in the three-year screening round.

In order to ensure that all women receive their first invitation for breast screening by their 50th birthday, the programme is currently being extended to women aged 47 to 49. The extension is being conducted as part of a randomisation project with women aged 71 to 73, which will give directly comparable mortality data on the effectiveness of screening in these ages. The project is being run over two three-year screening rounds, with all local screening services expected to be screening women in both age groups from 2016.

As at the end of March 2011, 43 of the 82 local screening services in England had extended, and it is anticipated a further 16 will have extended by the end of May. "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12" states that commissioners should ensure that all screening services continue to take part in the breast screening age extension randomisation project.

We will continue to work with NHS Cancer Screening Programmes to ensure local programmes begin the age extension as soon as possible.

Cataracts

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the numbers of primary care trusts which restrict access to cataract treatments; [51178]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of NHS patients assessed as requiring cataract treatment who have been refused treatment by *(a)* Portsmouth NHS and *(b)* primary care trusts in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [51179]

Mr Simon Burns: No such estimate has been made. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for service commissioning, taking into account the available evidence and the needs of the local population.

PCTs are required to make decisions on the funding of drugs and treatments rationally, and following proper consideration of the evidence. If a PCT decides not to fund a drug or treatment, it should explain its decision.

Cataracts: Surgery

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cataract operations were carried out on NHS patients in each year since 1996-97. [51635]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table provided by the Information Centre for health and social care shows the number of finished consultant episodes for cataract surgery, from 1996-97 to 2009-10.

	Total episodes[1]
1996-97	165,525
1997-98	172,061
1998-99	213,888
1999-2000	224,380
2000-01	248,788
2001-02	256,921
2002-03	278,335
2003-04	306,212
2004-05	305,967
2005-06	292,447
2006-07	294,972
2007-08	320,209
2008-09	339,242
2009-10	346,969

[1] The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as the same person may be admitted on more than one occasion.

Dementia: Research

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to support research into dementia. [52558]

Paul Burstow: Dementia is a priority for the coalition Government. The Ministerial Group on Dementia Research that I chair has now completed its work and produced a comprehensive set of proposals. These will be set out in a 'Route Map for Dementia Research', to be published before the summer recess.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51422]

Mr Simon Burns: On 17 January 2011 there were 1,741 staff in the Department with mobile communication devices.

The Department spent £738,301 during the last four quarters ending in December 2010 on mobile assets. This includes contract and usage charges.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 668W, on departmental public appointments, for what reasons the answer referred to a website address that is inaccessible; and how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men who held public appointments in bodies sponsored by his Department are no longer in those roles as a result of decisions to merge, close or reorganise such bodies taken since his appointment. [51442]

Mr Simon Burns: The answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 668W, included a link (web) which provides a path to the page containing all the Cabinet Office Public Bodies reports. The reports contain information of departmental public bodies and the gender of their public appointees. We are not aware of any reason why this should have been inaccessible as the link had been tested successfully. The full address line of the page accessed by the link is

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/ndpbs.aspx

and at the time of writing the latest version of the report is "Public Bodies 2009" which can be accessed via that page or directly at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/PublicBodies2009_tcm6-35808.pdf

The Department is currently implementing the changes of its arm's length bodies review and the public bodies review. The changes will be enacted from 2012 onward. Therefore, to date, there has been no direct impact on public appointments held by men and women as a consequence of decisions to merge, close or reorganise bodies sponsored by the Department.

Departmental Manpower

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51386]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not use or monitor a "vacancy rate" nor does it employ any dynamic measure reflecting the variation of vacancies over time. The Department is not required to report dated vacancy counts to any central data collection bodies, such as the Cabinet Office or the Office of National Statistics.

However, recently, vacancies have been reported by all Government Departments in the form of organisation charts. The latest organisational, chart for the Department can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/structure-charts-department-health

The Department's central budgetary calculations do not involve assumptions about vacancy counts or vacancy rates but these may be implicit in the local staff figures produced or predicted by sections and provided to the Department's central financial management for budgetary purposes.

Donors: Transplant Surgery

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the use of organs from British donors for private transplants paid for by patients from overseas. [50844]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant allocates organs for transplantation in line with directions made by the Secretary of State for Health. Priority is given to people who are in a group 1 listing, which includes people ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, residents of countries with whom the UK has bilateral health agreements and certain persons who are entitled under European Union law. Arrangements may be made for the actual transplantation to be undertaken on a private basis. The organ allocation is made on the basis of clinical need. The Buggins review "Allocation of Organs to Non-UK EU Residents", published in July 2009, found no evidence that people having their transplant as a private patient were allocated an organ more quickly.

Drugs

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received on the manufacture and supply of generic drugs for the treatment of *(a)* HIV/AIDS and *(b)* hepatitis; [50977]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the potential effects on the pharmaceutical price agreement of the proposed EU-India Free Trade Agreement. [51030]

Mr Simon Burns: In the period 12 May 2010 to 30 March 2011, the Department is not aware of any representations relevant to either question. However, in this period, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, as part of its regular licensing activity, has granted one licence application for a generic drug to treat HIV/AIDS, with a further six under consideration, and have one application for a generic drug to treat hepatitis under consideration.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that its drug recovery payment by results system does not discourage treatment providers from supporting the recovery of individuals with the most intractable drug dependence. [52062]

Anne Milton: We are piloting the payment by results system. We will work in partnership with the eight local areas that will pilot this approach to co-design the detail over the next six months. This will include ensuring that providers are incentivised to continue to work with the hardest to reach and are not able to 'cherry pick' the easiest clients.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51394]

Mr Simon Burns: For the integrated structure (staff of grades Administrative Officer to Grade 7) no money has been spent on outplacement during the last year for which figures are available (2010-11). The Department had no contract in place as we were not then in a period of restructuring.

The Department will be putting a contract in place for outplacement services during the period of transition commencing May 2011 onwards.

For the senior civil service, the Department has spent £44,959 on recruitment agency fees from April 2010 to date.

Corporate/central departmental spend on Learning and Development (L&D) for financial year 2009-10 (the most recent complete year for which figures are available) is set out in the following table.

		£
	Budget	*Spend*
2009-10	1,411,400	1,583,041

The figures outline corporate L&D spend only i.e. training that is funded centrally by Human Resources.

Individual directorates also have L&D budgets. However that expenditure is not tracked and figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The above figures therefore do not reflect total departmental spend on training.

General Practitioners

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to put in place a mechanism to inform patients automatically when their GP refers them for treatment by a provider in which the GP has a commercial interest under his proposals for NHS reform; [51149]

(2) what mechanism he plans to put in place to ensure that GPs do not inappropriately refer patients for treatment to companies in which they are shareholders under his proposals for NHS reform; [51150]

(3) whether GPs will be required to register any interests they have in companies to which they can refer patients for treatment. [51258]

Mr Simon Burns: As now, general practitioners (GPs) following our reforms may hold financial interests in organisations to which they refer patients or contract services. However, the Health and Social Care Bill proposes clear statutory duties on commissioners in relation to procurement and in relation to anti-competitive behaviours. A clear set of underpinning rules and guidance will be developed to apply to GP consortia, so that they have the necessary support to make decisions that are fair and transparent and avoid any perceived conflicts of interest.

In addition, the Bill also includes a requirement that each consortium's constitution sets out arrangements for decision-making and managing potential conflicts of interest.

Our proposed approach is that GP consortia should be able to proceed on the basis of 'assumed responsibility' rather than 'earned autonomy'. This will mean that consortia are free, within the legislative framework, to make the decisions that they judge are right for patients and value for money. However, there will be a clear duty on the NHS Commissioning Board, or if necessary, the economic regulator, to intervene if there are concerns that a consortium has not met its duties in relation to fairness and choice or has engaged in anti-competitive behaviour.

In addition, GPs have to follow ethical guidance published by the General Medical Council, 'Good Medical Practice' This sets out that any commercial interests GPs have in organisations related to health care must not affect the way they prescribe, treat or refer patients. GPs must also inform the patient if they are referring them to an organisation in which they have a commercial interest.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that new GP consortia follow national health and clinical excellence commissioning guidelines. [51660]

Mr Simon Burns: Drawing on National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) quality standards, and other sources of evidence, including NICE'S clinical guidelines, the NHS Commissioning Board will develop high-level commissioning guidance for general practitioner (GP) consortia. This will contain evidence and good practice on pathways, standards, outcome measures, currencies and contracting to help consortia commission the best outcomes for the patients they serve. Under the provisions in the Health and Social Care Bill, GP consortia will be required to have regard to the commissioning guidance.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the funding formula for central Government funding of GP commissioning consortia will take account of the cost of reducing health inequalities between consortia; [52086]

(2) what formula he plans to use to determine the distribution of funds between GP commissioning consortia. [52087]

Mr Simon Burns: It is intended that the National Health Service Commissioning Board will take over responsibility for commissioning guidelines and the allocation of resources for NHS services from the Department. It would be for the Board to decide how best to allocate resources in a way that supports the principle of securing equivalent access to NHS services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability. The Health and Social Care Bill also includes a duty for the Board to narrow inequalities in access to healthcare, and the outcomes delivered by that healthcare.

During the transition to the Board, the Secretary of State for Health has asked the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA), an independent committee comprising general practitioner (GP), academics and NHS managers, to continue to oversee the formulae for the distribution of NHS resources. ACRA's work programme will include consideration of the allocation of funds to GP consortia, and will examine the issue of unmet need. However, this work programme does not pre-empt any decisions to be made by the NHS Commissioning Board.

In addition, from 2013-14, the Department will allocate a ring-fenced public health grant to local authorities, based on relative population health. A new health premium will reward communities for the improvements in health outcomes they achieve, and incentivise action to reduce health inequalities. Disadvantaged areas will see a greater premium if they make progress, recognising that they face the greatest challenges.

Further detail on the allocations and processes will be announced in due course.

Public Health

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on measures to ensure any *(a)* closures, *(b)* changes in entry prices and *(c)* changes in opening hours of local sport and leisure facilities do not adversely affect public health outcomes. [51213]

Anne Milton: No ministerial level discussions have taken place with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on these specific issues. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is represented on the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Public Health which has been established to consider cross-Government issues affecting public health.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the potential effects on public health outcomes of the *(a)* closure, *(b)* reduced opening hours and *(c)* increase in entry price of local sport and leisure facilities. [51214]

Anne Milton: Our records show that since May 2010, the Department has received approximately 13 correspondence cases relating to sport and leisure facilities. Of those, three cases are related to potential effects on public health outcomes of the closure, reduced opening hours or increase in entry price of local sport and leisure facilities. We are aware of no other representations in this area.

The consultation on the public health White Paper closed on 31 March, however we have yet to complete a full analysis of responses, including any representations on these issues.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the role of grassroots sport in achieving public health objectives. [51215]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health meets regularly with Cabinet colleagues to discuss areas of mutual interest. Grassroots community sport makes an important contribution to physical activity and therefore to public health.

The Minister of State, Department of Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns) and I met with the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, my hon. Friend the Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson) and Jennie Price, Chief Executive for Sport England on 21 March to discuss how Sport England might contribute to the Responsibility Deal Physical Activity Network.

Health Research Regulatory Agency

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for establishing the Health Research Regulatory Agency. [52487]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 832-33W.

Health Services: Freedom of Information

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 187W, on health services: freedom of information, what steps he is taking to prevent any potential misuse by private and voluntary providers of health-care of information secured from public sector competitors under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [51573]

Mr Simon Burns: The Freedom of Information Act provides a statutory right of access to information held by public authorities, including those within the health sector. The FOI Act already includes provision for information to be exempt from disclosure if its release would, for example, be harmful or prejudicial, subject to a public interest test in some instances.

Information that is not exempt from the requirement to disclose it under the FOI Act is assumed to be released to the public at large as well as the requester.

Health Visitors

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors *(a)* were in post in each region in May 2010 and *(b)* are in post in each region at the latest date for which figures are available. [50987]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of health visitors in each strategic health authority (SHA) in May 2010 and December 2010, which is the latest date for which figures are available.

Health visitors by SHA (full-time equivalent)

SHA	*May 2010*	*December 2010*
North East	481	522
North West	1,386	1,380
Yorkshire and the Humber	880	878
East Midlands	629	651
West Midlands	870	877
East of England	812	794
London	1,151	1,149
South East Coast	549	552
South Central	539	532
South West	795	790
England total	8,092	8,125

Source: The Information Centre for health and social care.

Health Visitors: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors *(a)* were in training in each region in May 2010 and *(b)* are in training in each region at the latest date for which figures are available. [50988]

Anne Milton: Figures for May 2010 are not available. Training numbers are collected annually in August. The following table shows the student population in August 2010, which are the latest available data.

2010-11 health visitors in training at August 2010

Strategic health authority	*Health visitors 2010-11 student population*
North East	38
North West	76
Yorkshire and the Humber	55
East Midlands	50
West Midlands	71
East of England	53
London	98
South East Coast	35
South Central	154
South West	44
England total	675

Source: 2010-11 Q1 Financial Information Monitoring System.

Hospitals: Alcoholic Drinks

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is held centrally on the number of hospitals with multi-disciplinary alcohol care teams. [50866]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of hospitals with multi-disciplinary alcohol care teams is not available centrally.

Hospitals: Nurses

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of hospitals with a nurse-led alcohol liaison service. [50998]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of hospitals with nurse-led alcohol liaison services is not available centrally.

Human Rights

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the legal advice to Ministers on the compatibility of the investigatory and adjudications processes of the General Medical Council with the European Convention of Human Rights. [51451]

Anne Milton: Legal advice to Ministers is subject to legal professional privilege. However, I am able to refer the hon. Member to paragraphs 11.1 - 11.5 of the Government's response of 15 March 2011 to enquiries made by the Joint Committee on Human Rights in relation to the Health and Social Care Bill. This provides a detailed explanation in reply to the Joint Committee's enquiry concerning this issue. This is available on the Joint Committee on Human Rights' website:

www.parliament.uk/documents/joint-committees/human-rights/Letter_from_Andrew_Lansley_15_March.pdf

Incontinence: Children

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that paediatric continence services are fully integrated with other paediatric services. [51659]

Anne Milton: The Department has worked closely with the Department for Education on the Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability—a Consultation', which sets out proposals to improve outcomes for all ill children with disabilities and special educational needs (SEN) including those who need continence services. As part of this Green Paper, we will be working with general practitioner consortia pathfinders and others to explore the best ways of providing support for the commissioning of integrated pathways of care for children and young people with SEN or disabilities.

The Department reminded primary care trusts (through the August bulletin of The Week to NHS managers) of best practice guidance 'Good Practice in Continence Services', issued by the Department of Health in 2000, which recommends assessments by suitably trained individuals for incontinent patients and makes it clear the supply of continence products should be provided in quantities appropriate to the individual. In addition, the Department issued as part of the 'National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services' best practice guidance on continence issues for children with learning difficulties was published in September of 2010.

In 2007, the Department also published an exemplar pathway (patient journey) on paediatric incontinence, in conjunction with ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence).

Insulin

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the working group chaired by Dr Rowan Hillson on the uptake of insulin pumps within the NHS has to produce a progress report. [51669]

Paul Burstow: The working group chaired by Dr Rowan Hillson on the uptake of insulin pumps within the national health service has met once and is due to meet again in the early summer. It will consider the options and timing for reporting on its findings.

Learning Disability

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1199W, on epilepsy: deaths, if he will sponsor research into the level of access for people with learning disabilities to epilepsy specialists; and if he will bring forward proposals to reduce avoidable deaths amongst people with learning disabilities. [52054]

Paul Burstow: The Department's National Institute for Health Research welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including health care for people with learning disabilities. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

The Government remain committed to providing access to high quality health care for people with learning disabilities as set out in "Valuing People Now (2009)".

Health services for people with learning disabilities is identified as an improvement area in "NHS Operating Framework 2011-12", which further demonstrates this Government's commitment to improving health outcomes for all people with learning disabilities.

Learning Disability: Health Services

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of Professor Mansell's report, "Raising Our Sights"; and if he will make a statement; [51277]

(2) what representations he has received on Professor Mansell's report, "Raising Our Sights"; and if he will make a statement; [51278]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Department for Education, *(b)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(c)* others on Professor Mansell's report, "Raising Our Sights"; and if he will make a statement; [51279]

(4) what steps he is taking to *(a)* assess and *(b)* implement the recommendations of Professor Mansell's report, "Raising Our Sights"; and if he will make a statement; [51280]

(5) what steps he is taking in response to recommendation 26 of the report by Professor Mansell, "Raising Our Sights", on the importance of local authorities providing a base from which adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities can attend activities during the day; and if he will make a statement. [51362]

Paul Burstow: A written ministerial statement was delivered on the 10 February 2011 launching our formal response to Professor Mansell's report, "Raising our Sights: Services for Adults with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities". We accept and support the conclusions of the report. Copies of the report and our response have been placed in the Library.

Following the publication of Professor Mansell's report, departmental officials have had discussions with key partners, including the Department for Education and the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the report's recommendations. The Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities addressed improving transitions, including for those with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. The Green Paper was informed by learning from the cross-government Getting A Life programme. The Getting A Life sites have produced, and are now implementing, a pathway into paid employment and full lives for young people with severe learning disabilities. The Getting A Life cohort included individuals with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities.

The elements of good service and good practice examples included in this report sits very clearly within the programme of work which the Government are leading to support independent living for people with learning disabilities and to support local service planning and commissioning to meet identified needs in their locality.

National health service bodies should be ensuring services meet the needs of all patients, including those with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. The Health and Social Care Bill will translate duty onto local authorities and general practitioner (GP) consortia and place them under a new duty to agree a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This is a new requirement through which the partners at the Health and Wellbeing Board have to agree a shared strategy for commissioning, which will have regard to their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Local authorities with their partner third sector organisations have responsibilities to offer services where there are assessed needs. Person centred approaches are the most positive way to ensure that individual needs are met in and across settings that are fully accessible to the individuals.

Annual GP health checks for people with learning disabilities are also a local way of ensuring all individuals with learning disabilities can access the right interventions for their health and well being.

Departmental records show that we have about 120 items of correspondence about "Raising Our Sights" report.

Learning Disability: Social Services

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations his Department has received on improvements to the *(a)* quality and *(b)* effectiveness of adult social care staff working with people with profound and multiple learning difficulties; [51973]

(2) what recent representations his Department has received on the feasibility of establishing personal budgets for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and provision for the training of *(a)* personal assistants and *(b)* adult social care; and if he will make a statement. [52042]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not index correspondence at that level. However, departmental records show that, since May 2010, the correspondence unit, which processes ministerial correspondence, has received 123 items of correspondence that urge the Department to accept the recommendations made in the March 2010 report 'Raising our Sights: Services for Adults with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities'. The report, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, includes discussions around the issues raised in this PQ.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to work with local authorities in England to increase the *(a)* quality and *(b)* effectiveness of adult social care staff working with people with profound and multiple learning difficulties; [51975]

(2) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the feasibility of personal budgets for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, including provisions for the training of *(a)* personal assistants and *(b)* adult social care staff; and if he will make a statement; [52016]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* assess the quality and effectiveness of adult social care staff working with people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [52041]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the feasibility of establishing personal budgets for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and provision for the training of *(a)* personal assistants and *(b)* adult care staff; and if he will make a statement; [52043]

(5) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that adult social care staff receive the training required to support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [52044]

(6) what his policy is on steps to ensure that *(a)* people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and *(b)* local families play a prominent role in developing the skills and training of adult social care staff working with people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [52045]

Paul Burstow: The Department is not directly involved in monitoring or assessing adult social care staff. It is the responsibility of local social care employers to monitor and assess the quality and effectiveness of staff they employ, including those who support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

The Department is not directly involved in the training of adult social care staff. It is the responsibility of local social care employers to ensure their staff receive the appropriate training required to undertake their job. It is for individuals receiving personal budgets to determine how best to use the funding, including the training of their care staff.

The Care Quality Commission has a responsibility to make sure better care is provided for everyone. They focus on quality and act swiftly to eliminate poor quality care and ensure care is centred on people's needs and protects their rights.

The "Vision for Adult Social Care", published in 2010, challenged councils to provide a personal budget to all eligible people, including some of those with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as a way of giving people choice and control about their care.

The "Vision for Adult Social Care" made it clear that the reform of health and social care should have patients in the driving seat. We also provide funding to the General Social Care Council to ensure that patient representatives are involved in the design of social work degrees.

Learning Disability: Swimming

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to improve access to public swimming pools for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [51270]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure public swimming pools play a role in the delivery of place-shaping for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [51272]

Paul Burstow: The United Kingdom Government ratified the UN convention on the rights of disabled people ("the convention") on 8 June 2009. The convention makes it explicit that disabled people have and should enjoy the same human rights as everyone else. It applies to all disabled people and covers all areas of life including education, employment, health, culture, liberty and accessibility. However, decisions about how best to improve access to public swimming pools for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities are a matter for local authorities and their elected members.

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association and *(b)* other organisations on the dissemination of good practice in the provision of access to public swimming pools for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [51271]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not had any discussion with the Local Government Association or other organisations on this issue. This is a matter for local determination.

The United Kingdom Government ratified the UN convention on the rights of disabled people ("the convention") on 8 June 2009. The convention makes it explicit that disabled people have and should enjoy the same human rights as everyone else. It applies to all disabled people and covers all areas of life including education, employment, health, culture, liberty and accessibility.

Leprosy

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the most recent advice he has received on the merits of including leprosy in the list of notifiable diseases. [50751]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency has advised the Department that leprosy should remain a notifiable disease so that appropriate public health action can be taken where appropriate, such as in cases where infectious leprosy is diagnosed. Leprosy is subject to a global eradication programme and so knowledge of imported cases in the United Kingdom is important. The list of notifiable diseases was subject to public consultation in 2009. No comments were received about leprosy.

Maternity Services: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on maternity services in 2009-10; and what proportion of total NHS spending this represented. [51228]

Anne Milton: In 2009-10, primary care trusts spent £2.407 billion on secondary health care relating to maternity services. This represents approximately 2.5% of the total national health service revenue expenditure in 2009-10 of £95.587 billion.

Maternity Services: Manpower

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternity support workers there were in each NHS trust on the most recent date for which figures are available. [51433]

Anne Milton: The information is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Maternity Services support staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 December 2010

	Headcount
England	9,152
North East Strategic Health Authority area	473
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	42
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	72
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	24
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	18
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	120
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	77
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	20
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	101
North West Strategic Health Authority area	1,125
Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3

NHS hospital and community health services: Maternity Services support staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 December 2010

	Headcount
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	37
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	90
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	68
East Cheshire NHS Trust	20
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	59
Halton and St Helens PCT	4
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	54
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	132
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	37
North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	8
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	119
Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	59
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	54
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	28
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	24
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	54
Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	29
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	73
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust	50
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	38
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	46
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	39
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	900
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	18
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	29
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	55
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	73
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	36
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	19
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	81
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	156
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	90
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	75
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	22
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	132
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	56
York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	58
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	687
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	40
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	76
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	62
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	2
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	112
Nottingham City PCT	22
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	52
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	41
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	89
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	191
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1,086
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	3
Birmingham East and North PCT	1
Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust	131
Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	56
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	24
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	2
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	162
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	25
Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust	31
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	112
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	84
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	35
The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	80
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	68
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	84
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	62
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	39
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	88
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	919
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	100
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	40
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	74
Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust	5
Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	18
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	56
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	31
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	60
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	52
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	99
Luton PCT	10
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	38
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	73
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	25
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	37
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	55
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	41
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	72
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	33
London Strategic Health Authority area	1,521
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	136
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	83
Barts and the London NHS Trust	69
Brent Teaching PCT	2
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	42
Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	44
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	12
Enfield PCT	18

NHS hospital and community health services: Maternity Services support staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 December 2010

	Headcount
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	75
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	65
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	71
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	94
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	75
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	94
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	56
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	76
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	32
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	37
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	32
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	83
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	51
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	47
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	64
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	68
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	38
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	59
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	824
Ash ford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	62
Brighton And Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	115
Dartford And Gravesham NHS Trust	38
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust	115
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	61
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	80
Maidstone And Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	67
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	66
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	51
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	74
West Kent PCT	1
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	94
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	732
Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	33
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	105
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	49
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	31
Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	57
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	123
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	85
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	96
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	121
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	32
South West Strategic Health Authority area	885
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	24
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	40
Gloucestershire PCT	10
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	42
North Bristol NHS Trust	121
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	19
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	55
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	70
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	43
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	56
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	8
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	4
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	31
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	89
The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	12
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	164
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	11
Wiltshire PCT	62
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	23

Notes:

1. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. When overall headcount figures are split into sub categories the sum of the sub totals may exceed the overall sum due to inclusion of staff in multiple sub categories.

2. Maternity support workers include: Maternity nursery nurse, nursing assistant auxiliary, health care assistant, support worker, nurse learner.

3. Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

4. Monthly data:

As from 21 July 2010 The NHS Information Centre has published experimental, provisional monthly NHS work force data. As expected with provisional, experimental statistics, some figures may be revised from month to month as issues are uncovered and resolved. The monthly work force data is not directly comparable with the annual work force census; it only includes those staff on the Electronic Staff Record (ESR) (ie it does not include primary care staff or bank staff), it also includes locum doctors (not counted in the annual census). There are also new methods of presenting data (headcount methodology is different and there is now a role count). This information is available from September 2009 onwards at the following website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/provisionalmonthlyhchsworkforce

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Monthly Workforce Statistics.

Maternity Services: Negligence

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid out in respect of *(a)* settled claims and *(b)* settled claims arising from maternity care under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts since 31 August 2010. [51435]

Mr Simon Burns: The data requested were supplied by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) in the following table and include payments made from 1 September 2010 under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts as at 31 March 2011.

Specialty	*Payments made (£)*
Obstetrics	97,749,732
Other	261,529,992
Total	359,279,724

The NHSLA does not reference claims to maternity care on its database. Obstetrics specialty claims have been supplied as an alternative. The data include payments made for claims settled prior to 1 September 2010 but where a payment was made for those claims from that date.

Medical Treatments: Costs

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of treatment carried out by *(a)* the private sector, *(b)* independent sector treatment centres, *(c)* the voluntary sector and *(d)* other sectors including local authorities on behalf of the NHS in each financial year since 1997; and what proportion of NHS expenditure payments to each sector represented in each year. [51646]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows expenditure by national health service commissioners (primary care trusts) in England on the purchase of NHS treatment from non-NHS providers for financial years 2006-07 to 2009-10, broken down by the provider categories requested. For each year expenditure on each provider category is expressed as a proportion (%) of total NHS revenue expenditure, with totals in the final row.

Data were not collected on expenditure as between different non-NHS providers prior to 2006-07.

Expenditure by primary care trusts on the purchase of healthcare from non-NHS bodies 2006-07 to 2009-10

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	£ million	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*	*£ million*	*%*
Spend with:								
Independent sector treatment centres	200	0.3	314	0.4	352	0.4	373	0.4
Other private sector providers	1,992	2.5	2,602	3.0	3,066	3.4	3,766	3.9
Voluntary sector	366	0.5	421	0.5	513	0.6	560	0.6
Other (incl. local authorities)	2,142	2.7	2,381	2.8	2,494	2.7	2,749	2.9
Total	4,700	6.0	5,718	6.6	6,425	7.1	7,448	7.8

Source:
Audited PCT summarisation schedules 2006-07 to 2009-10

Midwives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of midwives working in the NHS in England worked *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what definition of (i) part-time and (ii) full-time were used for these purposes. [51224]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the working patterns for midwives over the last 10 years.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified midwifery staff in England by nature of contract as at 30 September each year

Headcount and percentage headcount

	Full time	*Part time*	*Bank/ unknown*	*All staff*	*Full-time (%)*	*Part-time (%)*
2001	10,723	10,783	1,569	23,075	49.9	50.1
2002	10,478	11,217	1,554	23,249	48.3	51.7
2003	10,462	11,784	1,695	23,941	47.0	53.0
2004	10,322	12,603	1,919	24,544	45.0	55.0
2005	10,362	12,779	1,667	24,808	44.8	55.2
2006	10,277	12,836	1,356	24,469	44.5	55.5
2007	10,199	13,329	1,565	25,093	43.3	56.7
2008	10,093	13,566	2,005	25,664	42.7	57.3
2009	10,422	13,891	2,138	26,451	42.9	57.1
2010[1]	10,692	14,264	1,887	26,825	42.8	57.2

[1] Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
Further information on the headcount methodology is available at:
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-numbers/monthly-nhs-hospital-and-community-health-service-hchs-workforce-statistics-in-england--january-2011-provisional-experimental-statistics

Notes:
1. Percentages are based on the number of staff whose contracts are known.
2. 'Part-time' is defined in the non-medical workforce census as anything less than the standard contracted full-time hours of 37.5 hours a week.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care non-medical workforce census.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the age profile is of the midwives employed by the NHS. [51225]

Anne Milton: The age profile of midwives employed in the national health service in England is as follows:

Midwives by age as at 30 September 2010

Age	*Headcount*
Under 25	802
25-29	2,193
30-34	2,836
35-39	2,903
40-44	4,207
45-49	5,147
50-54	3,851
55-59	2,007
60-64	821
65 and over	139
Unknown	1

Note:
Data on the age of bank staff is not available.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care 2010 non-medical workforce census.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* stand-alone midwife-led maternity units and *(b)* midwife-led maternity units situated alongside consultant-led maternity units there are in each strategic health authority area; and what the location of each such unit is. [51226]

Anne Milton: The number of midwife-led maternity units in each of the strategic health authorities (SHA) is provided in the following table. Information to distinguish stand-alone midwife-led maternity units and midwife-led maternity units situated alongside consultant-led maternity units is not held centrally.

	Units
East of England SHA	7
South Central SHA	11
South West SHA	17
North East SHA	6
West Midlands SHA	9
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	7
South East Coast SHA	3
East Midlands SHA	4
North West SHA	5
London SHA	4

The addresses of each of these midwife-led units has been placed in the Library.

Midwives: Training

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many places for student midwives will be commissioned in each region in the 2011-12 academic year. [51410]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Planned Midwifery Training Commissions 2011-12

	Number
North East	90
North West	253
Yorks and Humber	259
East Midlands	161
West Midlands	294
East of England	274
London	571
South East Coast	221
South Central	209
South West	158
England total	2,490

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student midwives were in receipt of a bursary in the 2009-10 academic year; what the average bursary paid to a student midwife was in that year; and what the cost to his Department was of bursaries paid to student midwives in that year. [51434]

Anne Milton: The number of midwifery students who held a bursary, the average bursary paid to those students and the total cost of all bursaries paid to student midwives in academic year 2009-10 can be found in the following table.

	2009-10
Number of bursary holders[1]	4,777
Average amount paid per bursary holder[2] (£)	5,765
Total-amount paid[2] (£)	27,539,804

[1] Includes nil award holders (European Union fees only students and students whose living allowance element of the bursary has been reduced to nil after income assessment).

[2] Includes the basic award, all supplementary allowances and one off payments.

Note:

All figures are round to the nearest pound.

Source:

NHS Student Bursaries Services Authority

Healthcare Providers

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the application of EU competition law to NHS organisations which wish to merge. [50944]

Mr Simon Burns: Clause 65 of the Health and Social Care Bill makes provision for mergers involving national health service foundation trusts to be considered by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) under the Enterprise Act 2002. This ensures that there is a fair playing field for all providers of health care services. This replaces the current system whereby the Co-operation and Competition Panel advises Monitor on the impact of such mergers between NHS foundation trusts and Monitor takes the decisions as to whether the merger can go ahead, whether remedies are required or whether the merger cannot go ahead. The OFT currently considers mergers between NHS foundation trusts and private providers.

For a merger to be under European merger law a number of conditions need to be met, including requiring a proportion of turnover to be in other member states. As NHS providers are unlikely to have any significant turnover in other member states, we think that European merger law is unlikely to apply.

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of EU competition law on the ability of NHS organisations to provide an integrated care service in cases where the co-operation of two or more NHS organisations is required. [50945]

Mr Simon Burns: Co-operation and competition are not mutually exclusive. Co-operation remains a crucial part of the delivery of national health service-funded services where it delivers improvements in quality, innovation and productivity for the benefit of patients. To this end, section 72 of the NHS Act 2006 places NHS providers under a duty to co-operate.

One of the key aims of the reforms, as set out in existing departmental procurement guidance, is to promote greater collaboration and dialogue between general practice clinicians and clinicians in provider organisations. This will ensure that commissioned pathways across provider boundaries are clear and safe and that patients receive seamless provision that is responsive to their needs.

However, agreements between providers and commissioners that preclude competition and are likely to have an adverse effect on patients and taxpayers are not permitted. Such anti-competitive behaviour may include agreements between competing service providers to share geographic areas or customers, to co-ordinate their bids or to limit output and innovation. Where services are commissioned on an Any Qualified Provider basis, commissioners will need to ensure that those services (and the associated patient outcomes) are specified in a way that does not give an unfair advantage to established providers. The Competition Act offers protection against this sort of behaviour by giving a general prohibition on agreements that prevent, restrict or distort competition.

NHS: Drugs

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential drug and alcohol treatment places are available in NHS facilities; and what estimate he has made of the change in the number of such places during the comprehensive spending review period. [50919]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally.

However, each local drug partnership in England will have information on the level of local provision for drug dependency and up to date contact details for each partnership can be found via the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse website. The regional teams section of the site provides links to the details of each local partnership. This is available at:

www.nta.nhs.uk/regional.aspx

Commissioning of alcohol residential rehabilitation services is the responsibility of local adult social services departments. Adult social services are active partners in drug partnerships and often co-ordinate their activity for alcohol clients with the partnership.

NHS: Negligence

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the basis was for each of the 100 largest settled claims awarded under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts; how much was paid in each case; and which of these claims arose from maternity care. [51229]

Mr Simon Burns: The data requested were supplied by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) in the following table. The NHSLA does not record maternity as a separate specialty, although we would expect the majority of maternity claims to fall under obstetrics.

The 100 largest settlements under Clinical Negligence Schemes Trusts as at 31 March 2011

Total damages agreed	*Total damages paid (£) as at 31 March 2011*	*Estimate of amount (£) yet to be paid*	*Basis for award*	*Speciality*
£12,400,000.00	9,938,278.34	2,461,721.66	Cardiac Arrest	Obstetrics
£9,960,000.00	5,087,000.00	4,873,000.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£9,000,000.00	3,400,000.00	5,600,000.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£9,000,000.00	4,396,481.70	4,603,518.30	Brain Damage	Paediatrics
£8,558,000.00	3,930,342.03	4,627,657.97	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£8,200,000.00	3,399,750.00	4,800,250.00	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
£8,000,000.00	4,235,239.25	3,764,760.75	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£8,000,000.00	3,126,148.16	4,873,851.84	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£7,940,000.00	3,780,692.27	4,159,307.73	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£7,750,000.00	3,440,403.54	4,309,596.46	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£7,700,000.00	3,240,733.59	4,459,266.41	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
£7,582,000.00	3,442,599.90	4,139,400.10	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£7,538,438.00	3,137,538.05	4,400,899.95	Brain Damage	Anaesthesia
£7,500,000.00	3,478,020.86	4,021,979.14	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£7,471,000.00	3,580,700.00	3,890,300.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£7,250,000.00	3,410,000.05	3,839,999.95	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£7,047,000.00	3,326,049.34	3,720,950.66	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£6,900,000.00	3,298,547.95	3,601,452.05	Bowel Damage/Dysfunction	Paediatrics
£6,825,000.00	6,825,000.00	0.00	Tetraplegia/Quadraplegia	Orthopaedic Surgery
£6,642,000.00	3,487,051.61	3,154,948.39	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£6,632,843.92	6,632,843.92	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£6,630,000.00	3,353,663.90	3,276,336.10	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£6,600,000.00	2,914,167.81	3,685,832.19	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£6,600,000.00	3,119,821.78	3,480,178.22	Respiratory Disorder/Failure	Paediatrics
£6,450,739.73	6,450,739.73	0.00	Blindness	Obstetrics/Gynaecology
£6,400,000.00	3,061,538.83	3,338,461.17	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£6,248,845.00	3,348,590.82	2,900,254.18	Brain Damage	Paediatric Surgery
£5,800,000.00	3,132,000.00	2,668,000.00	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
£5,799,919.20	5,799,919.20	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,793,781.23	5,793,781.23	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,786,000.00	2,946,014.82	2,839,985.18	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,750,000.00	3,007,176.47	2,742,823.53	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,750,000.00	5,750,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,749,110.81	5,749,110.81	0.00	Brain Damage	General Medicine
£5,620,290.00	5,620,290.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,555,000.00	5,555,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,500,000.00	5,500,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,375,147.96	5,375,147.96	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£5,007,136.85	5,007,136.85	0.00	Partial Paralysis	General Surgery
£5,000,000.05	5,000,000.05	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,950,001.00	4,950,000.05	0.95	Tetraplegia/Quadraplegia	Cardio Surgery
£4,850,000.00	4,850,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,817,988.29	4,817,988.29	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,750,000.00	4,750,000.00	0.00	Developmental Delay	Obstetrics/Gynaecology
£4,506,058.00	4,506,057.78	0.22	Nerve Damage	Radiology
£4,476,511.13	4,476,511.13	0.00	Brain Damage	General Surgery
£4,400,000.00	4,400,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,300,000.00	3,999,989.04	300,010.96	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,250,000.00	4,250,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,200,000.00	4,200,000.00	0.00	Developmental Delay	Obstetrics
£4,108,957.80	4,108,957.80	0.00	Brain Damage	Casualty/A and E
£4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.00	Wrongful Birth	Radiology

The 100 largest settlements under Clinical Negligence Schemes Trusts as at 31 March 2011

Total damages agreed	*Total damages paid (£) as at 31 March 2011*	*Estimate of amount (£) yet to be paid*	*Basis for award*	*Speciality*
£4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,960,033.22	3,960,033.22	0.00	Brain Damage	Casualty/A and E
£3,878,816.00	3,034,048.40	844,767.60	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,750,000.00	3,750,000.00	0.00	Psychiatric/Psychological Damage	Obstetrics
£3,750,000.00	3,750,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,739,174.15	3,739,174.15	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,720,107.21	3,720,107.21	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,700,000.00	3,700,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,674,959.98	3,674,959.98	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,600,000.00	2,930,163.99	669,836.01	Meningitis	Paediatrics
£3,600,000.00	3,600,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,512,906.40	3,512,906.40	0.00	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
£3,506,990.17	3,506,990.17	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,450,000.00	2,957,067.90	492,932.10	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,433,017.50	3,433,017.50	0.00	Brain Damage	Orthopaedic Surgery
£3,350,000.00	3,350,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,343,283.82	3,343,283.82	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,341,419.19	3,341,419.19	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,325,000.00	3,325,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,300,000.00	3,300,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,300,000.00	3,300,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,275,000.00	3,275,000.00	0.00	Brain Damage	Paediatrics
£3,250,000.00	3,250,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,250,000.00	3,250,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,237,000.00	3,237,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,230,265.83	3,230,265.83	0,00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,200,000.00	3,200,000.00	0.00	Partial Paralysis	Urology
£3,200,000.00	2,965,280.13	234,719.87	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,150,000.00	3,150,000.00	0.00	Brain Damage	Obstetrics
£3,100,000.00	3,100,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,100,000.00	3,100,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,035,429.69	3,035,429.69	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,005,260.27	3,005,260.27	0.00	Wrongful Birth	Obstetrics
£3,000,050.00	3,000,050.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£2,963,097.05	2,963,097.05	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£2,907,192.40	2,907,192.40	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics
£2,900,348.40	2,900,348.40	0.00	Brain Damage	Casualty/A and E
£2,900,000.00	2,900,000.00	0.00	Tetraplegia/Quadraplegia	Orthopaedic Surgery
£2,880,000.00	2,880,000.00	0.00	Cerebral Palsy	Obstetrics

NHS: PFI

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS in each of the next five years of financing the hospital contracts entered into under the private finance initiative in the last 15 years. [51454]

Mr Simon Burns: The most recent estimate of the total annual payments for national health service bodies under signed private finance initiative (PFI) contracts for hospital building schemes for 2011-12 to 2015-16 are shown in the following table.

	Total annual estimated PFI payments (£ million)
2011-12	1,474
2012-13	1,592
2013-14	1,679
2014-15	1,736
2015-16	1,783

The payment figures include not just the financing costs for the initial construction but all the other services such as building maintenance and support services (cleaning, catering, portering etc.) provided over the lifetime of the contract. The figures also include an annual uprate assumption for inflation of 2.5%.

NHS: Public Expenditure

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason there is a difference between the departmental expenditure limits for the NHS (Health) for 2010-11 in *(a)* the 2010 spending review and *(b)* the 2011 Budget. [50946]

Mr Simon Burns: The 2010-11 resource departmental expenditure limit for the NHS (Health) baseline in the 2010 spending review is £98.7 billion (Table 1 on page 10—CM 7942).

The 2010-11 NHS (Health) estimate in the 2011 Budget is £98.4 billion (Table 2.4 on page 48—HC836).

The reduction of £300 million between the 2010 spending review and the 2011 Budget has occurred because the 2011 Budget reflects the Department's latest forecast of expenditure for 2010-11, an underspend of around £300 million.

The 2010-11 capital departmental expenditure limit for the NHS (Health) baseline in the 2010 spending review is £5.1 billion (Table 2 on page 11—CM 7942).

The 2010-11 NHS (Health) estimate in the 2011 Budget is £4.5 billion (Table 2.4 on page 48—HC836).

The reduction of £550 million between the 2010 spending review and the 2011 Budget is due to:

the figures in the 2011 Budget Report reflecting the Department's latest forecast of expenditure for 2010-11, an underspend of around £350 million; and

HM Treasury having adjusted the 2010-11 capital DEL to include fiscal stimulus and Warm Front funding in the 2010 spending review baseline. This funding had been transferred from the Department's 2010-11 DEL.

By way of comparison, the resource underspend in 2009-10 was £1.407 billion and the capital underspend in 2009-10 was £230 million.

NHS: Reorganisation

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the costs to the NHS of his announcement of 4 April 2011 of a delay in the implementation of NHS reforms; and if he will make a statement. [51947]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost of the Government's modernisation proposals were published in the impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill. The estimated national cost is £1.4 billion. These figures are our best estimates at this time, but may change in light of the outcome of the current listening exercise.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Office of Health Professions Adjudicator

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent from the public purse on the establishment of the Office of Health Professions Adjudicator. [51355]

Anne Milton: The amount spent on the establishment of the Office of Health Professions Adjudicator is shown in the following table.

	Spend (£)
2008-09	52,203
2009-10	1,204,468
2010-11	[1]1,456,878
Total	[1]2,713,549

[1] Indicative 2010-11 year end accounts will be published 7 April 2011, so this figure may be subject to change.

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish each submission to his Department's consultation on the future of the Office of Health Professions Adjudicator. [51356]

Anne Milton: In line with a commitment made to the Health and Social Care Bill Committee on 29 March 2011, submissions to the Department's consultation on "Fitness to Practice Adjudication for Health Professionals: Assessing Different Mechanisms for Delivery" will be published on the Department of Health website as soon as practicable, after the redaction of personal data where necessary in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Department's Information Charter.

This will be subject to two instances where, in line with the express wishes of the respondents, the identities of those respondents, and the terms of the response of one of them, cannot be published.

Physiotherapy

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of introducing GP-led commissioning on access to *(a)* physiotherapy and *(b)* community-based therapeutic exercise for people recovering from fragility fractures. [51091]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, general practitioners (GPs) will be given real responsibility to ensure that commissioning decisions are underpinned by clinical insight and knowledge of local healthcare needs. GPs, in partnership with other local healthcare professionals such as therapists and community nurses, are best placed to understand the health needs of local populations and how to work with their local populations to design services that meet those needs.

Prescriptions: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued in Bassetlaw constituency in 2010. [51378]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of prescription items dispensed in the community within the United Kingdom, which were written in the Bassetlaw primary care trust area in 2010 was 2,230,849.

Notes:

1. This information was obtained from the Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system, which covers prescriptions prescribed by general practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. For data at primary care trust (PCT) level, prescriptions written by a

prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside that PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals or clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals, dental prescribing and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data.

2. Prescriptions are written on a prescription form known as a FP10. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

Source:

Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in the level of expenditure which will arise from allocating the functions of primary care trusts to other organisations under his proposals for NHS reform. [50836]

Mr Simon Burns: It is intended that the National Health Service Commissioning Board would take responsibility from the Department of Health for commissioning guidelines and the allocation of resources for NHS services. In addition, the board would be responsible for commissioning certain services, including specialised services, worth around £10 billion, primary medical services, worth around £8 billion and other family health services, worth over £3 billion.

Work is continuing to refine these estimates, as well as estimates of the value of other services, such as the public health responsibilities that would transfer from primary care trusts to Public Health England, including its grants to local authorities.

The proposed restructuring will enable the costs of administration across the health system to be reduced by one third in real terms, delivering savings of over £5 billion by 2014-15 and £1.7 billion every year thereafter. All of these savings will be available to re-invest in patient care.

Primary Care Trusts: Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff have been made redundant in each primary care trust in 2010-11; and what the overall cost of such redundancies has been in each primary care trust. [51948]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

The number of staff made redundant in each primary care trust (PCT) by headcount is available for the first three quarters (April 2010 to December 2010) of 2010-11. This is shown in the following table. A breakdown by each PCT has been placed in the Library.

	Quarter 1 2010-11			*Quarter 2 2010-11*			*Quarter 3 2010-11*		
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
North East	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	30	45
North West	0	3	1	6	4	6	26	7	19
Yorkshire and the Humber	1	2	5	3	4	3	3	25	14
East of England	1	6	67	2	9	13	6	36	3
East Midlands	0	13	8	2	7	24	29	25	22
West Midlands	10	1	5	13	0	12	5	5	7
London	14	5	6	5	4	3	10	6	30
South East Coast	2	1	0	1	18	1	0	4	6
South Central	1	1	4	6	0	7	11	5	1
South West	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	30	33	97	41	46	69	91	143	148

Source:

Data extracted from electronic staff record and validated by strategic health authorities with trusts

The data for quarter 4 (January 2011 to March 2011) 2010-11 will be published at the end of June 2011.

From 2010-11, there is a HM Treasury financial reporting manual requirement for the NHS audited summarisation schedules to further analyse termination benefits into the number and cost of compulsory and other exit packages by cost banding.

This data will be available once audited final accounts are published in late summer. Other exit packages will include voluntary redundancies and voluntary early retirements, however, these will not be separately identifiable from the data.

Primary Care Trusts: Re-employment

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that no one who took early voluntary retirement from a primary care trust in 2010-11 will be re-employed by a primary care trust as a result of the delays to the implementation of NHS reforms announced on 4 April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51944]

Mr Simon Burns: Payment of an NHS pension is made under the regulations of the scheme. Members of the scheme who take voluntary early retirement from the national health service have an actuarial reduction applied to their pension as they have retired before their normal pension age of 60 for members of the 1995 section, and 65 for members of the 2008 section. There are no restrictions on a member who has retired with an actuarial reduction subsequently returning to work in the NHS. Retired members of the 1995 section are unable to rejoin the scheme, whereas members who retired from the 2008 section are able to rejoin the scheme.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that no one who was made redundant from a primary care trust in 2010-11 will be re-employed by a primary care trust as a result of the delays to the implementation of NHS reforms announced on 4 April 2011. [51945]

Mr Simon Burns: Under NHS Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions, when a person obtains suitable alternative employment with the same or another national health service employer within four weeks of their date of redundancy, they lose their right to a redundancy payment or pension.

No penalty is incurred if a person obtains further NHS employment after a period of four weeks has passed from their date of redundancy. This is a long-standing provision confirmed when the redundancy provisions were renegotiated in 2006.

The national Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme, which was introduced in 2010 to provide a cost effective means of delivering change in the NHS, includes "clawback" arrangement so that if an employee returns to work for the NHS within six months of their last day of employment they will be required to repay any un-expired element of their compensation.

Primary Care Trusts: Retirement

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff took early voluntary retirement in each primary care trust in 2010-11; and what the overall cost of such early voluntary retirements was in each primary care trust. [51946]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested on the number of early voluntary retirements in primary care trusts is not held centrally.

From 2010-11, there is a HM Treasury Financial Reporting Manual requirement for the national health service audited summarisation schedules to further analyse termination benefits into the number and cost of compulsory and other exit packages by cost banding.

This data will be available once audited final accounts are published in late summer. Other exit packages will include voluntary redundancies and voluntary early retirements, however these will not be separately identifiable from the data.

Surgery

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 194W, on surgery, what proportion of operations cancelled were urgent operations in each year since 2002-03. [52290]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected centrally on all operations cancelled by the national health service. The Department only collects information on the number of urgent operations cancelled for non-clinical reasons and the number of elective operations cancelled "at the last minute" for non-clinical reasons. These figures are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Number of urgent operations cancelled*[1]	*Number of elective operations cancelled at the last minute*[2]
2002-03	1,809	67,254
2003-04	2,489	66,303
2004-05	2,000	68,569
2005-06	1,975	60,803
2006-07	1,909	52,005
2007-08	2,456	57,382
2008-09	2,339	63,644
2009-10	2,534	62,296
2010-11[3]	2,389	43,021

[1] The number of urgent cancellations apply to both emergency and elective operations.

[2] The number of elective operations cancelled at the last minute includes operations cancelled on the day of operation or day of admission. Other cancellations are not captured in these figures.

[3] Data for 2010-11 up to February 2011 only (urgent operations cancelled) and up to December 2010 (for elective cancellations).

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to announce whether regulations will be revoked under the Government's one-in, one-out policy as a result of the introduction of a tobacco display ban. [50815]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department scrutinises all measures, as part of the flow of regulation, to identify outs for the one-in, one-out regulatory management system. This is a continuous process.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the capacity of supermarkets to comply with proposals for a tobacco display ban. [50816]

Anne Milton: The Impact Assessment included in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) (England) Regulations 2010, sets out the Department's assessment of the likely impact on retailers of implementing the legislation to end displays of tobacco products in shops in England.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 775W, on tobacco: sales, with which representatives of retailers his Department is working to develop guidance. [51357]

Anne Milton: The legislation ending tobacco displays in shops in England will come into effect in the first instance for large shops on 6 April 2012 and for other shops on 6 April 2015. Departmental officials are currently developing guidance for large shops. The Department will continue to engage with the British Retail Consortium and the Association of Convenience Stores as representatives of large retailers, as well as the supermarket chains Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose and the Co-operative.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 775W, on tobacco: sales, whether the appropriate Government Ministers included the members of the Reducing Regulation Committee. [51358]

Anne Milton: The appropriate Government Ministers did include the Reducing Regulation Committee.

Transplant Surgery

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's policy is on support for fully independent transplant units; and what fully independent transplant units there are in England and Wales; [51987]

(2) what the name is of each transplant centre in England and Wales; and which such centres have been subject to investigation by his Department arising from concern over clinical outcomes in the last five years for which figures are available. [51988]

Anne Milton: Transplantation is undertaken in national health service and private hospitals across the United Kingdom. There are no fully independent transplant centres as such, as all centres in England and Wales, whether they undertake transplants from living or deceased donors, are required to comply with the provisions of the Human Tissue Act 2004; ensure all living donation is authorised by the Human Tissue Authority and notify all procurement and transplantation of organs to NHS Blood and Transplant. From August 2012, all centres undertaking transplantation will also need to be licensed to meet the requirements of the EU Organ Directive 2010/53/EU. The centres, and the town or city in which they are based, are detailed in the following table.

In the last five years the National Commissioning Group has undertaken two investigations where concerns have arisen over clinical outcomes. These are an external review of the heart and lung transplant service at Papworth hospital in 2007 and a review of outcomes in the heart transplant service at Harefield hospital in 2008.

	Centre
Birmingham	Diana, Princess of Wales Children's hospital
Birmingham	Queen Elizabeth hospital
Birmingham	AMI Priory hospital
Bristol	Southmead hospital
Cambridge	Addenbrooke's hospital
Cardiff	University hospital of Wales
Coventry	University hospital
Harefield	Harefield hospital
Leeds	St James's University hospital
Leicester	General hospital
Liverpool	Royal Liverpool University hospital
London	Great Ormond Street hospital[1]
London	Guy's hospital
London	King's College hospital
London	St George's hospital
London	The Royal Free hospital
London	The Royal London hospital
London	West London Renal and Transplant Centre
London	The London Clinic
London	Cromwell hospital
London	London Bridge hospital
Manchester	Royal Infirmary
Manchester	Wythenshawe hospital
Newcastle	Freeman hospital[1]
Nottingham	City hospital
Oxford	Churchill hospital
Papworth Everard	Papworth hospital
Plymouth	Derriford hospital
Portsmouth	Queen Alexandra hospital
Sheffield	Northern General hospital

[1] Paediatric Designated Centre.

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mortality rate at *(a)* 30 days and *(b)* one year was for patients at each transplant unit in England in the latest period in which figures are available. [52039]

Anne Milton: To estimate patient survival rates following transplant, patients are followed up until either death or the 30th day, one year or five year time point is reached. The mortality rates at 30 days are only held for cardiothoracic transplants. Unadjusted and risk-adjusted survival rates and 95% confidence intervals are given for each centre in the following tables based on data from the UK Transplant Registry maintained by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT).

The risk-adjusted rate gives an estimate of what the survival rate at a centre would have been if they had had the same mix of patients as that found across all centres.

The confidence interval rate gives an indication of the uncertainty or precision of an estimate, and is influenced by the number of transplants a particular centre undertakes. Estimates from larger data sets tend to be more precise and meaningful than those from smaller data sets. Confidence intervals are calculated with a stated probability, usually 95%.

Survival rates are not presented if there are five or fewer transplants at a centre in a given time period. Where there were no transplant failures or patient deaths within the post-transplant period of interest, the survival estimate is shown as 100% and a confidence interval is not shown as it cannot be estimated.

Table 1: One year patient survival rates: deceased (kidneys), risk adjusted

Centre	*Number of transplants*	*Survival estimate (%)*	*95% confidence interval*
Belfast City Hospital, Belfast	145	97.6864	(82-100)
Freeman Hospital, Newcastle	333	95.0080	(85-100)
St James's University Hospital, Leeds	429	97.1696	(88-100)
Leicester General Hospital, Leicester	111	88.8807	(72-100)
Nottingham City Hospital, Nottingham	92	96.2080	(77-100)
Northern General Hospital, Sheffield	143	98.6659	(83-100)
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge	277	96.8272	(86-100)
The Royal Free Hospital, London	173	96.2421	(82-100)
The Royal London Hospital, London	184	95.8927	(82-100)
Guy's Hospital, London	241	97.0135	(85-100)
St George's Hospital, London	228	98.0392	(86-100)
Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth	150	94.0055	(79-100)
Churchill Hospital, Oxford	226	96.7761	(84-100)
Southmead Hospital, Bristol	268	96.5405	(85-100)
Derriford Hospital, Plymouth	146	94.5050	(79-100)
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham	309	95.5270	(85-100)
Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry	56	98.0658	(74-100)

Table 1: One year patient survival rates: deceased (kidneys), risk adjusted

Centre	*Number of transplants*	*Survival estimate (%)*	*95% confidence interval*
Royal Liverpool University, Liverpool	197	98.3069	(85-100)
Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester	397	94.4685	(85-100)
West London Renal Transplant Centre, London	213	97.2163	(84-100)
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff	247	95.7935	(84-100)

Table 2: One year patient survival (pancreas)

Centre	*Number of transplants*	*Survival estimate (%)*	*95% confidence interval*
Newcastle	33	91	74-97
Cambridge	57	98	88-100
Guy's	83	100	n/a
Oxford	159	95	91-98
Manchester	76	88	77-93
Edinburgh	53	100	n/a
West London Renal Transplant Centre	33	100	n/a
Cardiff	29	96	77-99

Table 3: One year patient survival (liver)

Centre	*Number of transplants*	*Survival estimate (%)*	*95% confidence interval*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate 95% confidence interval*
Newcastle	84	91.7	83.3-95.9	91.5	82.4-96.6
Leeds	189	88.9	83.5-92.6	89.5	83.9-93.5
Cambridge	190	88.9	83.5-92.6	89.5	84.0-93.5
The Royal Free	157	89.2	83.2-93.1	88.0	80.8-93.0
King's College	332	92.7	89.2-95.0	90.5	85.8-93.9
Birmingham	357	87.7	83.8-90.7	89.6	86.0-92.4
Edinburgh	138	91.3	85.2-95.0	91.7	85.5-95.7

Table 4: 30 day patient survival (heart)

Centre	*Number of transplants*	*Survival estimate (%)*	*95% confidence interval*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate 95% confidence interval*
Newcastle	56	89.3	78.1-96.0	90.2	81.0-96.2
Papworth	68	91.2	81.8-96.7	90.2	80.9-96.2
Harefield	45	86.7	73.2-94.9	88.9	77.4-96.1
Birmingham	47	85.1	71.7-93.8	85.6	74.2-93.7
Manchester	36	94.4	81.3-99.3	95.1	84.3-99.4
Glasgow	19	73.7	48.8-90.9	79.7	62.7-92.3
Great Ormond Street	3	100	—	100	—

Table 5: 30 day patient survival (lung)

Centre	*Number of transplants*	*Survival estimate (%)*	*95% confidence interval*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate 95% confidence interval*
Newcastle	122	91.0	84.4-95.4	94.9	91.2-97.4
Papworth	81	96.3	89.6-99.2	97.3	92.5-99.4
Harefield	97	94.8	88.4-98.3	95.9	90.9-98.6
Birmingham	27	81.5	61.9-93.7	89.3	78.1-96.3
Manchester	62	100	—	100	—
Great Ormond Street	3	100	—	100	—

Table 6: One year patient survival (heart)

Centre	*Number of transplants*	*Survival estimate (%)*	*95% confidence interval*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate 95% confidence interval*
Newcastle	355	78.1	73.4-82.1	77.8	73.7-81.6
Papworth	538	84.2	80.8-87.0	85.2	82.3-87.9
Harefield	420	78.9	~~74.7-82.5~~	78.6	74.7-82.3
Birmingham	267	80	74.6-84.4	79.5	74.6-83.9
Manchester	251	87.6	82.8-91.1	87.2	82.6-91.0
Glasgow	209	77.9	71.6-83.0	78.3	73.0-83.2
Great Ormond Street	13	76.2	42.7-91.7	80.2	58.1-95.2

Table 7: One year patient survival (lung)

Centre	*Number of transplants*	*Survival estimate (%)*	*95% confidence interval*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate*	*Risk adjusted survival estimate 95% confidence interval*
Newcastle	528	81.3	77.6-84.4	—	—
Papworth	487	71.6	67.2-75.4	—	—

Table 7: One year patient survival (lung)

Centre	Number of transplants	Survival estimate (%)	95% confidence interval	Risk adjusted survival estimate	Risk adjusted survival estimate 95% confidence interval
Harefield	435	76.1	71.8-79.9	—	—
Birmingham	146	67.3	58.9-74.3	—	—
Manchester	244	77.4	71.4-82.3	—	—
Great Ormond Street	22	86.4	63.4-95.4	—	—

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 234-5W, on alternatives to prison, in what circumstances probation services would prepare a pre-sentence report to assist magistrates with their sentencing decision where a curfew or unpaid work would be appropriate for an offender but where he or she *(a)* has no fixed abode and *(b)* has advised the court of plans to leave the UK for a long time or permanently. [52341]

Mr Blunt: Probation Trusts will provide a pre-sentence report if requested by the court. The pre-sentence report will provide information on the offender that will help the court to decide whether to impose a community order and, if so, whether particular requirements are suitable for an individual offender.

Animal Welfare: Convictions

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for offences under section 11 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in each year since 2005. [51708]

Mr Blunt: There were two defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under section 11 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in England and Wales for the year 2006, and there were no defendants found guilty for the years 2005, and 2007 to 2009 (latest available).

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to his Department's response to the consultation on proposals for the reform of civil litigation funding and costs, how he expects costs arising from expert reports in cases of injuries of maximum severity on the cost of future accommodation, care costs, rehabilitation and medical reports outside the Association of Medical Reporting Organisations agreement to be met; [52199]

(2) how the cost of expert reports on liability and medical reports outside the Association of Medical Reporting Organisation's agreement will be funded in cases of occupational disease under his proposals for reform of civil litigation funding; [52221]

(3) how the cost of expert reports on liability for accidents at work will be funded under his proposals for civil litigation funding; [52222]

(4) how the cost of medical reports outside the Association of Medical Reporting Organisation's agreement will be funded under his proposals for civil litigation funding. [52223]

Mr Djanogly: The Government will continue to engage with claimant and defendant representatives to ensure that joint expert reports can be commissioned wherever possible. Under our proposals, claimants would also have the option of paying the disbursement costs themselves, or taking out after the event insurance to cover disbursements, paying the premium themselves except in clinical negligence claims. As announced in Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response Cm 8041, March 2011, the Government intend to permit the ATE insurance premium limited to the costs of expert reports to remain recoverable in clinical negligence claims where claimants have no alternative option for funding those reports.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what reports he has received of the cost of obtaining medical reports outside the Association of Medical Reporting Organisation's agreement; [52224]

(2) what information his Department holds on the cost of expert reports for *(a)* future accommodation, *(b)* future care costs and *(c)* rehabilitation; [52449]

(3) what information his Department holds on the cost of expert reports on liability for *(a)* accidents at work and *(b)* occupational disease. [52450]

Mr Djanogly: We do not routinely collect data on expert reports as it forms part of wider expenditure on solicitors' disbursements. In general, we do not have sufficient information to estimate the cost of expert reports for types of cases, nor for different types of report. This in part stems from the fact that for some types of personal injury cases for which we have data (notably the dataset referred to in annex A to the Jackson impact assessment), we only have data on disbursements paid by defendants, which may not equal the full cost of the disbursements.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) hold more substantive data on disbursements for legal aid cases. This can be found in the LSC's published statistical information (2009-10) at:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/aboutus/how/strategic_publications.asp

The Government will continue to engage with claimant and defendant representatives to ensure that joint expert reports can be commissioned wherever possible.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, whether the proportionality test would take precedence over fixed recoverable fee arrangements; and if he will make a statement; [52446]

(2) with reference to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, March 2011, by what mechanism he will ensure that defendants' legal costs are proportionate. [52451]

Mr Djanogly: The Government intend to introduce a new proportionality test in relation to recoverable costs, as recommended by Lord Justice Jackson. This test will apply to defendants in the same way as it applies to claimants. The details will be set out in due course.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, March 2011, (1) what incentive is provided for claimants' solicitors to pursue or defend appeals on points of law; [52452]

(2) what plans he has for the funding of claimants' costs in appeal cases on points of law. [52453]

Mr Djanogly: Claimants will be able to fund appeals in the same way that they fund cases at first instance.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, March 2011, in respect of the recovery of fees from claimants' general damages for past losses, whether recovery will be permitted from past special damages. [52454]

Mr Djanogly: As set out in the Government Response, the maximum success fee that a lawyer may agree with a client under a conditional fee agreement—or the payment under a damages based agreement—in personal injury cases will be subject to a cap. The cap will be 25% of damages, excluding those for future care and loss which will be protected.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, March 2011, in respect of the recovery of fees from claimants' general damages for pain and suffering of up to 25 per cent. against what damages recovery will be permitted in fatal accident cases where there are no such general damages. [52455]

Mr Djanogly: The 25% cap on damages, which a lawyer may agree with their clients as a success fee under a conditional fee agreement, is calculated as a percentage of all damages, excluding those for future care and loss which will be protected. The proceedings to which it applies will be set out in regulations in due course.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, March 2011, (1) what certainty a claimant will have as to their potential costs liability when commencing a claim; [52456]

(2) what steps he is taking to avoid the means testing of claimants' income and capital. [52457]

Mr Djanogly: A regime of qualified one way costs shifting will be introduced for personal injury cases, including clinical negligence. The Government Response makes clear that we will continue to discuss with interested parties how the rules should be drafted. Qualified one way costs shifting will not be extended beyond personal injury at this stage, so the normal costs shifting rules will continue to apply in other cases.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what responses his Department received to its consultation on proposals to reform civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales on the viability of a market for after the event insurance to cover risks related to *(a)* disbursements only and *(b)* residual liability under qualified one way costs shifting; and if he will make a statement. [52458]

Mr Djanogly: As set out in the Government Response, the views of respondents to the consultation were clearly divided between general liability insurers and defendant representatives who supported the proposals, and claimant representatives and after the event (ATE) insurers who argued that recoverability of success fees and ATE insurance premiums should remain. Some respondents did express concern about the viability of the ATE market if recoverability of ATE insurance premiums is abolished. We will continue to engage with interested parties on the detail of how qualified one way costs shifting should be implemented and how expert reports can be jointly commissioned and funded.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, March 2011, what steps he intends to take to ensure that defendants do not exploit the caps on claimants' costs by outspending the ability of a claimant to pursue their claim. [52459]

Mr Djanogly: The package of measures the Government are taking forward is designed to make the costs of civil litigation more proportionate. In personal injury claims, a regime of qualified one way costs shifting will be introduced, which will mean that the majority of defendants will not recover their costs in cases which they win. In other areas, the proportionality test will mean that if a winning defendant has spent a disproportionate amount on the case, they will only be able to recover a proportionate sum. Finally, it is not the claimant's costs which will be capped by the reforms. It is the amount of damages which may be taken as part of the lawyer's fee. In personal injury cases this will be subject to a cap of 25% of damages, excluding those for future care and loss.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to paragraph two of the foreword to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, March 2011, what information his Department holds on the existence of a compensation culture. [52531]

Mr Djanogly: The Government believe that the current no win no fee arrangement have made it too easy to bring claims and too expensive to defend them. This has led to many examples of the compensation culture which were referred to by right hon. and hon. Members during the oral statement on 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 173-74, and have been referred to, among others, by Lord Young of Graffham in 'Common Sense, Common Safety', his report last October on the operation of health and safety laws and the growth of the compensation culture.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, March 2011, what estimate he has made of the extent to which the profits of liability insurance companies will change as a result of his proposals. [52532]

Mr Djanogly: A revised impact assessment was published alongside the Government Response document. As set out in Annex A of that impact assessment, the limitations of the data available mean that a full quantitative assessment of the impacts is not possible.

Convictions: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of women with a previous conviction have children aged under *(a)* 18, *(b)* 16, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* five years; and if he will make a statement. [52215]

Mr Blunt: While the Ministry of Justice holds information on the convictions of female offenders it does not hold information on the number of children these female offenders have.

Courts: Interpreters

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the provision of interpretation services for court hearings in each of the last three years; [51700]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the quality of interpretation services provided in court hearings; and if he will make a statement. [51701]

Mr Blunt: We estimate that the annual cost of interpretation and translation services in the magistrates, crown, civil and family courts, excluding the costs of the Crown Prosecution Service and defence, is approximately £17 million.

In a written ministerial statement I made to this House on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 46-47WS, I announced our intention to engage with the market to explore how interpretation and translation services could be delivered more efficiently whilst ensuring that appropriate quality standards are met. The work has moved forward and we are now seeking the views of interested parties, including interpreters and interpreter organisations, on our proposals. We are clear that maintaining the quality of the work delivered in the courts is essential. We will consider the comments we receive before making a decision on the best way forward.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [51991]

Mr Djanogly: No ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer at the Ministry of Justice since the appointment of the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke).

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51520]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: No job reduction targets have been set for my Department. However, MoJ's response to the spending review marks the beginning of a programme of radical change which will fundamentally reform the way justice is provided by 2015. I am confident that the process will lead to a transformed Ministry of Justice which is efficient, transparent, and affordable.

Estimates suggest that the Ministry will lose around 14,000 to 15,000 posts, including a significant reduction in our headquarters and administrative areas. Preliminary modelling assumptions split the posts between 10,000 in the National Offender Management Service, 3,000 in Courts and Tribunals Services and 1,000 to 2,000 elsewhere in the Department over the four-year period. Where possible, staff reduction will be through natural turnover and voluntary redundancy, avoiding compulsory redundancies if possible.

Drugs: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female inmates have been reprimanded in respect of offences involving the use of drugs while in prison in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [52366]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of proven drug offences committed by females in prison and dealt with under the prison adjudication process in each year from 2000 to 2009. These figures count the number of offences, not the number of individuals; one prisoner may be responsible for more than one offence. Drug offences comprise categories, "unauthorised use of a controlled drug," "possession of a controlled drug," "sells/delivers drugs to any person," "administers any controlled drug" and "receives drugs during a visit."

	Number of offences
2000	676
2001	597
2002	433

	Number of offences
2003	311
2004	520
2005	560
2006	539
2007	472
2008	460
2009	330

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Drugs: Prosecutions

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of those prosecuted for offences of *(a)* possession of and *(b)* dealing in cannabis were (i) found not guilty, (ii) fined and (iii) imprisoned in each year since 2006. [52311]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for possession of cannabis, possession with intent to supply cannabis and dealing in cannabis, and the number and percentage of proceedings ending in acquittal, a fine or immediate custodial sentence, at all courts, in England and Wales for the year 2006 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Defendants[1, 2, 3] proceeded against at magistrates courts for possession of cannabis, possession with intent to supply cannabis, and dealing in cannabis, and the number and percentage of proceedings ending in acquittal, a fine or immediate custodial sentence, at all courts, in England and Wales for the years 2006-09[4, 5]

Offence code	*Offence*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[6]	*2009*
	Possession of cannabis				
9261	Proceeded against	13,450	14,824	18,702	22,426
9266	Acquitted[7]	127	111	82	72
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.3
	Fine	6,368	6,839	8,694	10,986
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	47.3	46.1	46.5	49.0
	Immediate custody	141	162	247	320
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4
	Possession with intent to supply cannabis				
9281	Proceeded against	1,594	1,614	1,996	2,220
9286	Acquitted[7]	109	81	104	119
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	6.8	5.0	5.2	5.4
	Fine	29	32	48	78
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	1.8	2.0	2.4	3.5
	Immediate custody	240	232	263	393
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	15.1	14.4	13.2	17.7
	Supplying or offering to supply cannabis				
9241	Proceeded against	622	554	561	495
9246	Acquitted[7]	38	36	26	24
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	6.1	6.5	4.6	4.8
	Fine	21	29	21	16
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	3.4	5.2	3.7	3.2
	Immediate custody	101	101	104	136
	As a percentage of those proceeded against	16.2	18.2	18.5	27.5

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[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Defendants proceeded against in one year may not have their final "case outcome" (i.e. found guilty or acquitted) in the same year (e.g. case may be committed for trial at the Crown court).

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Cannabis was reclassified from a class C drug to a class B drug on 26 January 2009.

[5] Statutes and corresponding offence descriptions used:

Possession of cannabis:
S 92/61 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.5(2)
as amended by
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2008
Having possession of a controlled drug—Cannabis and cannabis resin; Cannabinol; Cannabinol derivatives
S 92/66 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.5(2)
Having possession of a controlled drug—Cannabis or cannabis resin.
Possession with intent to supply cannabis:
S 92/81 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.5(3)
as amended by
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2008
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply—Cannabis and cannabis resin; Cannabinol; Cannabinol derivatives
S 92/86 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.5(3)
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply—Cannabis or cannabis resin
Supplying or offering to supply cannabis:
92/41 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.4(3)
as amended by
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2008
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in)—Cannabis and cannabis resin; Cannabinol; Cannabinol derivatives
92/46 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.4(3)
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in)—Cannabis and cannabis resin

[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[7] Acquitted includes disposals: discharged and dismissed at magistrates courts and acquitted at the Crown court.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Employment Tribunals Service

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of an unpaid employment tribunal award have been passed to High Court enforcement officers under the fast-track enforcement regime since 6 April 2010; and in how many such cases the unpaid award was *(a)* fully recovered, *(b)* partially recovered and *(c)* not recovered. [51790]

Mr Djanogly: In the period between 6 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 1,495 unpaid employment tribunal awards have been issued under the ACAS and Employment Tribunal Fast Track.

The Fast Track is operated by the High Court Enforcement Officers Association and as such they are responsible for collation of the requested performance data. These data will not be available until 13 May 2011. Thereafter I will write to the hon. Member with those details.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the maximum award for unfair dismissal has been awarded by an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the total number of claims for unfair dismissal dealt with by the Employment Tribunal such awards represent in each of those years. [52318]

Mr Djanogly: The following table sets out the relevant data for each of the last five financial years for which figures are currently available.

Unfair dismissal cases received, disposed of and awards made, 2005-10

	Number of claims accepted	*Number of claims disposed*	*Number of unfair dismissal claims successful at hearing (i.e. where an award was made)*	*The median level of awards made in unfair dismissal claims (£)*	*The level of maximum compensatory award (£)[1]*	*Number of awards made equal to or above the maximum award[2]*	*Percentage of awards equal to or above the maximum award relative to successful awards[2]*
2005-06	41,800	35,400	2,400	4,228	56,800	47	2
2006-07	44,500	38,400	3,300	3,800	58,400	39	1
2007-08	40,900	37,000	2,600	4,000	60,600	26	1
2008-09	52,700	39,400	2,500	4,269	63,000	20	1
2009-10	57,400	50,900	2,900	4,903	66,200	17	1

Source:
ET Annual Reports apart from: [1] The maximum award for compensation is limited on 1 February by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills each year to the amount in the table. However awards can be above the maximum when they include a basic award element in addition to the compensatory element.

[2] Values for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are drawn from ET management information on IT systems and marked as provisional because there is no comparative data (i.e. in now destroyed hard copy files) to check them against.

Family Courts: Mediation

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to increase the use of dispute resolution in family proceedings in Wales and England. [51776]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to encouraging the public to resolve their issues out of court without recourse to public funds, using simpler, more informal remedies where they are appropriate.

On 23 February I announced that we will be increasing awareness and understanding of family mediation through a new Pre-Application Protocol for Family Mediation Information and Assessment meetings. This will begin to harmonise the position between self-funding and publicly funded individuals.

In our recent Legal Aid consultation paper we proposed that most family private law proceedings—other than cases where domestic violence or forced marriage is involved and child abduction cases—be removed from the scope of legal aid. Crucially, however, as we believe that supporting families at their most difficult moments is vitally important, it is proposed that free mediation for the types of dispute that previously were in scope will continue to those who are eligible. This will mean that those vulnerable people who need support will be able to benefit from mediation.

In 2009-10, we spent £14.4 million on publicly-funded family mediations. With the proposed legal aid reforms, it is anticipated that, subject to increased demand for publicly funded mediations, an additional £5 million will be spent annually.

We look forward to receiving the final recommendations from the independently-chaired Family Justice Review panel this autumn. This will help us to consider how the use of dispute resolution could be further encouraged across the family justice system.

Human Rights

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which court cases a declaration of incompatibility has been made under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 since the entry into force of that Act; which provision of legislation was declared to be incompatible with which Convention right in each case; what the Government's response was to each declaration; and which such declarations are final. [52421]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: 27 declarations of incompatibility have been made under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 since it came into force on 2 October 2000.

The information requested concerning these declarations of incompatibility is given in the following table.

	Name of case	*Legislative provision declared incompatible*	*Government response*	*Outcome*
1	R (on the application of Alconbury Developments Ltd.) *v.* Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions *(Administrative Court; [2001] HRLR 2; 13 December 2000)*	(a) The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (i) sections 77 and 78 (ii) section 79 (excluding the words inserted into sub section 79(4) by paragraph 19 of Schedule 7 to the Planning and Compensation Act 1991); (iii) paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 6 (insofar as it applied to section 79); (b) The Transport and Works Act 1992 sections 1, 3 and 23(4); (c) The Highways Act 1980 sections 14(3)(a), 16(5)(a), 18(3)(a) and 125 and paragraphs 1, 7 and 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 1; (d) The Acquisition of Land Act 1981 section 2 (3) and paragraph 4 of Schedule 1.	Appeal to House of Lords	The House of Lords overturned the declaration on 9 May 2001: [2001] UKHL 23
2	R (on the application of H) *v.* Mental Health Review Tribunal for the North and East London Region & The Secretary of State for Health *(Court of Appeal; [2001] EWCA Civ 415; 28 March 2001)*	Sections 72 and 73 of the Mental Health Act 1983	Legislation amended by the Mental Health Act 1983 (Remedial) Order 2001 (SI 2001 No.3712), which came into force on 26 November 2001	
3	Wilson *v.* First County Trust Ltd (No.2) *(Court of Appeal; [2001] EWCA Civ 633; 2 May 2001)*	Section 127(3) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974	Appeal to House of Lords	The House of Lords overturned the declaration on 10 July 2003: [2003] UKHL 40
4	McR's Application for Judicial Review *(Queen's Bench Division (NI); [2002] NIQB 58; 15 January 2002)*	Section 62 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, which continued to apply in Northern Ireland	Section 62 was repealed in Northern Ireland by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 139, section 140, Schedule 6 paragraph 4, and Schedule 7. These provisions came into force on 1 May 2004.	
5	International Transport Roth GmbH *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department *(Court of Appeal; [2002] EWCA Civ 158; 22 February 2002)*	The penalty scheme contained in Part II of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	Legislation amended by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, section 125, and Schedule 8, which came into force on 8 December 2002.	

	Name of case	*Legislative provision declared incompatible*	*Government response*	*Outcome*
6	Matthews *v.* Ministry of Defence *(Queen's Bench Division; [2002] EWHC 13 (QB); 22 January 2002)*	Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947	Appeal to Court of Appeal	Court of Appeal overturned the declaration, a decision which was upheld by the House of Lords on 13 February 2003: [2003] UKHL 4.
7	R (on the application of Anderson) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department *(House of Lords; [2002] UKHL 46; 25 November 2002)*	Section 29 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997	Defended appeal to House of Lords, which allowed the appeal	Law repealed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, sections 303(b)(i) and 332 and Schedule 37, Part 8, with effect from 18 December 2003. Transitional and new sentencing provisions were contained in Chapter 7 and Schedules 21 and 22 of that Act.
8	R (on the application of D) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department *(Administrative Court; [2002] EWHC 2805 (Admin); 19 December 2002)*	Section 74 of the Mental Health Act 1983 was incompatible with Article 5(4) to the extent that the continued detention of discretionary life prisoners who had served the penal part of their sentence depended on the exercise of a discretionary power by the executive branch of government to grant access to a court	Law amended by section 295 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 section 295, which came into force on 20 January 2004.	
9	Blood and Tarbuck *v.* Secretary of State for Health *(unreported; 28 February 2003)*	Section 28(6)(b) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990	Law amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Deceased Fathers) Act 2003, which came into force on 1 December 2003	
10	R (on the application of Uttley) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department *(Administrative Court; [2003] EWHC 950 (Admin); 8 April 2003)*	Sections 33(2), 37(4)(a) and 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991	Appeal to the House of Lords	The House of Lords overturned the declaration on 30 July 2004: [2004] UKHL 38.
11	Bellinger *v.* Bellinger *(House of Lords; [2003] UKHL 21; 10 April 2003)*	Section 11(c) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973	Intervened in proceedings brought before the House of Lords	In *Goodwin v UK* (Application 28957/95; 11 July 2002) the European Court of Human Rights had already identified the absence of any system for legal recognition of gender change as a breach of Articles 8 and 12. This was remedied by the Gender Recognition Act 2004, which came into force on 4 April 2005.
12	R (on the application of M) *v.* Secretary of State for Health *(Administrative Court; [2003] EWHC 1094 (Admin); 16 April 2003)*	Sections 26 and 29 of the Mental Health Act 1983	In 2004, the Government published a Bill proposing reform of the mental health system, which would have replaced these provisions. Following substantial opposition in Parliament, the Government withdrew the Bill in March 2006 and introduced a new Bill which received Royal Assent on 19 July 2007 as the Mental Health Act 2007, of which sections 23 to 26 replace the incompatible provisions. These provisions came into force on 3 November 2008.	
13	R (on the application of Wilkinson) *v.* Inland Revenue Commissioners *(Court of Appeal; [2003] EWCA Civ 814; 18 June 2003)*	Section 262 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988	The section declared incompatible was no longer in force at the date of the judgment, having already been repealed by the Finance Act 1999 sections 34(1), 139, and Schedule 20.	
14	R (on the application of Hooper and others) *v.* Secretary of State for Work and Pensions *(Court of Appeal; [2003] EWCA Civ 875; 18 June 2003)*	Sections 36 and 37 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefit Act 1992	The law had already been amended at the date of the judgment by the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999, section 54(1), which came into force on 9 April 2001	

	Name of case	*Legislative provision declared incompatible*	*Government response*	*Outcome*
15	R (on the application of MH) *v.* Secretary of State for Health *(Court of Appeal; [2004] EWCA Civ 1609; 3 December 2004)*	Section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983 was declared incompatible with Article 5(4) of the ECHR in so far as: (i) it is not attended by provision for the reference to a court of the case of an incompetent patient detained under section 2 in circumstances where a patient has a right to make application to the Mental Health Review Tribunal but the incompetent patient is incapable of exercising that right; and (ii) it is not attended by a right for a patient to refer his case to a court when his detention is extended by the operation of section 29(4).	Appeal to House of Lords	The House of Lords overturned the declaration on 20 October 2005: [2005] UKHL 60.
16	A and others *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department *(House of Lords; [2004] UKHL 56; 16 December 2004)*	Section 23 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001	Appeal to Court of Appeal against decision of the Special Immigration Appeals Tribunal. Court of Appeal allowed government appeal, which was then appealed to House of Lords.	The provisions were repealed by the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, which put in place a new regime of control orders, which came into force on 11 March 2005.
17	R (on the application of Sylviane Pierrette Morris) *v.* Westminster City Council & First Secretary of State (No. 3) *(Court of Appeal;[2005] EWCA Civ 1184; 14 October 2005)*	Section 185(4) of the Housing Act 1996	Law was by Schedule 15 to the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. The Act received Royal Assent on 22 July 2008 and Schedule 15 was brought into force on 2 March 2009.	
18	R (Gabaj) *v.* First Secretary of State *(Administrative Court; unreported; 28 March 2006*	Section 185(4) of the Housing Act 1996	Law amended by Schedule 15 to the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. The Act received Royal Assent on 22 July 2008 and Schedule 15 was brought into force on 2 March 2009.	
19	R (on the application of Baiai and others) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department and another *(Administrative Court; [2006] EWHC 823 (Admin); 10 April 2006)*	(a) Section 19(3) of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 (b) Regulations 7 and 8 of the Immigration (Procedure for Marriage) Regulations 2005	(a) Appeal to House of Lords (b) Following House of Lords judgement laid Remedial Order to abolish certificate of approval scheme, which was approved on 4th April 2011 and the scheme will end on 9th May 2011.	The House of Lords held that the declaration of incompatibility should be limited to a declaration that section 19(1) of the Act was incompatible with Article 14 taken together with Article 12, insofar as it discriminated between civil marriages and Church of England marriages. In other respects it was possible to read and give effect to section 19 in a way which was compatible with Article 12: [2008] UKHL 53.
20	Re MB *(Administrative Court; [2006] EWHC 1000 (Admin); 12 April 2006)*	Section 2 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (specifically the procedure provided by the 2005 Act for supervision by the court of non-derogating control orders was held incompatible)	Appeal to Court of Appeal	The Court of Appeal overturned the declaration, a decision which was upheld by the House of Lords on 31 October 2007: [2007] UKHL 46.
21	R (on the application of (1) June Wright (2) Khemraj Jummun (3) Mary Quinn (4) Barbara Gambier) *v.* (1) Secretary of State for Health (2) Secretary of State for Education & Skills *(Administrative Court; [2006] EWHC 2886 (Admin); 16 November 2006)*	Section 82(4)(b) of the Care Standards Act 2000	Appeal to Court of Appeal	The House of Lords reinstated the declaration of incompatibility on 21 January 2009: [2009] UKHL 3. By the date of the House of Lords' judgment, the transition to a new scheme under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 was already underway. The new SVGA scheme does not include the feature of provisional listing which was the focus of challenge in the *Wright* case.

	Name of case	*Legislative provision declared incompatible*	*Government response*	*Outcome*
22	R (Clift) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department; Secretary of State for the Home Department v Hindawi and another *(House of Lords; [2006] UKHL 54; 13 December 2006)*	Sections 46(1) and 50(2) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991	The provisions in question had already been repealed and replaced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, save that they continued to apply on a transitional basis to offences committed before 4 April 2005. Section 27 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 therefore amended the Criminal Justice Act 1991 to remove the incompatibility in the transitional cases. The amendment came into force on 14 July 2008, but reflected administrative arrangements addressing the incompatibility that had been put in place shortly after the declaration was made.	
23	Smith *v.* Scott *(Registration Appeal Court (Scotland); [2007] CSIH 9; 24 January 2007)*	Section 3(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983	Currently the Government is considering afresh the issue of prisoners' voting rights and the outcome of this process will determine the Government's response to the declaration in *Smith*.	
24	Nasseri *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department *(Administrative Court; [2007] EWHC 1548 (Admin); 2 July 2007)*	Paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004	Appeal to Court of Appeal, which overturned the declaration on incompatibility	The claimant appealed to the House of Lords and was unsuccessful.
25	R (Wayne Thomas Black) *v.* Secretary of State for Justice *(Court of Appeal; [2008] EWCA Civ 359; 15 April 2008)*	Section 35(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991	Appeal to House of Lords against Court of Appeal judgement	The House of Lords overturned the declaration of incompatibility on 21 January 2009: [2009] UKHL 1.
26	R (on the application of (1) F (2) Angus Aubrey Thompson) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department *(Administrative Court; [2008] EWHC 3170 (Admin); 19 December 2008)*	Section 82 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003	Appeal to Supreme Court	The Supreme Court upheld the declaration on 22 April 2010: [2010] UKSC 17. The Home Secretary announced to Parliament in February 2011 that she would bring forward proposals shortly.
27	R (on the application of Royal College of Nursing and others) *v.* Secretary of State for Home Department *(Administrative Court; [2010] EWHC 2761; 10 November 2010).*	Paragraph 8 of Schedule 3 to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006	The Government is bringing forward provisions in the Protection of Freedoms Bill.	

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which court judgments section 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998 has been referred to as the main provision determining an interpretation of legislation set down in the judgment since the entry into force of that Act; which provisions of legislation was interpreted on this basis in each such judgment; with which Convention right was the judgment seeking the compatibility of legislation in each such case; and which of these judgments are final. [52427]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information is not available in the form requested and could not be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which court cases subordinate legislation as defined in the Human Rights Act 1998 has been quashed or declared invalid due to incompatibility with a Convention right contained in that Act since the passage of that Act; what the subordinate legislation quashed or declared invalid was in each case; with which Convention right the subordinate legislation was found to be incompatible in each such case; under which Act or Acts the subordinate legislation had been made in each case; what the response of the Government was in each such case; and which of those judgments are final. [52428]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information requested is not collected and could not be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many immigration cases heard at tribunals required multiple sittings to determine in 2010. [51713]

Mr Djanogly: For the period 1 January to 31 December 2010, 163,903 appeals were determined by the First-tier Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber, of which 18,095 (11%) required more than one substantive hearing.

Of the 18,095, 7,111 were 'out of country' immigration appeals, 6,318 were 'in-country' immigration appeals, 4,283 were asylum appeals, 380 were appeals against deportation and three were appeals against human rights, race discrimination or deprivation of citizenship decisions.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate has been made of the average cost to the public purse of an Immigration Tribunal hearing. [51714]

Mr Djanogly: The length and, therefore, cost of a substantive hearing within the immigration and asylum jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service depends on the type of case. For this reason, an overall average cost is not used by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service for planning purposes. However, dividing the full cost of the immigration and asylum jurisdiction by the number of oral hearings held, the average cost per hearing during the financial year 2009-10 was £687.

Judiciary: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has made an impact assessment of the proposed changes to the judicial pension scheme; and what estimate he has made of the change in the opt-out rate resulting from implementation of the changes; [52270]

(2) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the changes to the judicial pension scheme are sustainable and progressive; [52271]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed changes to the judicial pension scheme on part-time members of staff who are members of the scheme. [52272]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: At the spending review the Government announced changes to the level of public service pension scheme members' contribution rates which would lead to total savings of £2.8 billion a year by 2014-15, to be phased in from April 2012. Discussions about how this will be implemented are ongoing with the judiciary. The Government will put forward proposals in June, and will then begin formal consultation on the necessary changes to scheme regulations.

The Government are committed to ensuring the changes are fair to pension scheme members and to taxpayers.

An impact assessment covering the judicial pensions schemes has been produced and may be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/pensions-reform/

The Treasury published an estimate of likely opt-out rates at the spending review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

This estimate has been scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, and will be reviewed when the Government put forward final designs.

Knives: Young People

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* under 19 and *(b)* over 18 were convicted for illegally carrying (i) knives and (ii) other weapons in each police authority area in (A) 2009 and (B) 2010; and if he will make a statement. [52401]

Mr Blunt: We assume that the question refers to under 18 and over 18-year-olds and have answered accordingly.

The number of offenders found guilty at all courts for possession of knives and possession of offensive weapons (excluding knives), by age group and police force area, England and Wales 1997 to 2009, can be viewed in tables 1 to 4 as follows.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Table 1: Number of defendants aged under 18 years of age convicted at all courts for knife possession offences[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[2,3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	6	7	17	7	23	28	19	28	15	30	29	27	20
Bedfordshire	1	5	3	6	6	2	5	7	11	11	19	13	12
Cambridgeshire	3	6	6	2	4	11	8	6	14	10	11	18	10
Cheshire	7	7	13	11	6	14	6	9	24	14	15	20	26
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	3	5	4	6	8	12	15	12	8	17	15	21	17
Cumbria	10	5	12	8	11	6	9	8	17	11	8	4	13
Derbyshire	8	9	8	5	8	15	17	17	12	14	21	16	17
Devon and Cornwall	9	6	5	14	11	12	22	17	31	18	19	31	27
Dorset	1	4	4	4	3	10	8	6	8	12	13	6	14
Durham	4	6	8	11	10	17	15	19	19	26	21	10	15
Essex	21	24	15	20	26	14	34	45	33	42	32	28	39
Gloucestershire	3	5	3	4	5	5	8	8	6	8	10	11	5
Greater Manchester	21	37	19	46	72	59	54	68	58	88	76	59	74
Hampshire	19	25	18	29	35	27	45	44	33	37	37	52	37
Hertfordshire	7	5	3	3	2	4	15	20	21	19	18	15	18
Humberside	7	6	12	16	15	17	10	14	23	35	27	16	26

Table 1: Number of defendants aged under 18 years of age convicted at all courts for knife possession offences[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[2,3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Kent	8	12	8	16	14	4	8	1	—	—	—	18	25
Lancashire	12	14	13	17	21	22	24	39	29	35	24	28	27
Leicestershire	10	11	10	9	13	19	13	18	22	23	26	20	19
Lincolnshire	3	9	7	7	4	10	11	7	6	11	4	10	12
Merseyside	28	25	23	26	15	23	33	30	30	40	39	39	50
Metropolitan police	148	167	178	194	340	309	246	239	298	337	321	417	380
Norfolk	4	3	6	6	9	5	15	9	9	10	8	19	18
North Yorkshire	7	3	6	8	7	11	10	13	11	18	12	4	13
Northamptonshire	2	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	11
Northumbria	14	23	28	34	44	45	53	57	56	31	62	44	61
Nottinghamshire	7	5	7	13	15	13	17	20	26	31	35	36	26
South Yorkshire	12	12	15	20	22	37	25	18	33	41	31	31	36
Staffordshire[4]	5	6	5	*	6	17	13	11	11	12	21	7	14
Suffolk	4	3	8	7	6	18	15	13	16	18	17	5	15
Surrey	3	5	2	9	11	5	4	10	5	7	5	9	16
Sussex	6	9	9	20	24	15	24	23	27	30	31	25	33
Thames Valley	7	12	5	7	13	13	10	18	23	36	25	21	38
Warwickshire	2	5	4	3	3	5	4	5	5	6	6	10	9
West Mercia[5]	4	8	2	1	2	1	—	3	24	23	19	17	19
West Midlands	28	25	17	41	71	62	48	67	61	71	77	85	83
West Yorkshire	13	5	14	10	17	22	19	44	26	29	36	33	26
Wiltshire	4	11	4	4	4	13	7	10	12	15	11	1	9
Dyfed-Powys	2	4	—	4	3	5	2	3	11	7	9	5	5
Gwent	5	2	6	4	4	2	4	11	10	12	13	9	10
North Wales	4	5	9	10	12	17	9	7	9	10	10	11	10
South Wales[6]	10	11	10	15	22	18	21	15	20	20	16	16	24
England and Wales	482	561	546	680	947	964	925	1,019	1,113	1,265	1,230	1,272	1,359

'—' = Nil

* = Not available

[1] Includes offences of having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Data have been omitted for West Mercia Police Force Area (for the offence of having an article with a blade or point on school premises) from 1999-2004 due to data quality issues.

[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of defendants aged 18 years and over convicted at all courts for knife possession offences[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	44	62	96	80	82	116	133	118	113	138	134	118	166
Bedfordshire	23	31	20	34	26	38	52	61	67	50	43	58	71
Cambridgeshire	21	29	25	13	23	35	26	56	43	57	43	60	61
Cheshire	52	56	39	40	30	40	48	39	58	70	93	76	91
City of London	16	8	4	8	9	17	19	20	18	11	9	6	6
Cleveland	13	26	27	15	34	57	55	69	63	59	75	97	87
Cumbria	22	22	25	19	17	31	36	38	33	30	38	34	63
Derbyshire	31	22	28	35	45	53	65	83	67	63	78	57	79
Devon and Cornwall	38	72	70	56	60	98	107	109	112	102	119	112	141
Dorset	18	37	28	28	29	45	41	53	53	55	50	47	60
Durham	21	24	27	32	25	59	49	49	70	65	71	34	69
Essex	64	73	81	80	73	89	112	156	143	133	128	117	188
Gloucestershire	13	29	15	13	19	21	24	34	33	31	31	39	56
Greater Manchester	181	205	188	176	209	239	250	276	291	305	318	284	339
Hampshire	78	86	75	77	79	86	108	133	129	124	132	180	184
Hertfordshire	24	24	25	24	23	49	68	64	71	65	50	39	92
Humberside	36	39	53	39	31	52	55	92	92	90	120	112	136

Table 2: Number of defendants aged 18 years and over convicted at all courts for knife possession offences[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Kent	24	61	76	61	62	29	27	12	12	6	5	65	116
Lancashire	93	106	84	70	85	76	112	122	121	109	127	101	147
Leicestershire	44	58	52	45	52	57	78	80	70	90	92	77	62
Lincolnshire	16	31	47	39	37	40	60	58	47	58	43	78	70
Merseyside	148	144	108	98	106	137	132	169	168	178	176	168	269
Metropolitan police	1,110	1,160	905	970	1,167	1,562	1,441	1,376	1,400	1,354	1,138	1,331	1,262
Norfolk	25	47	40	30	32	54	54	61	60	52	70	73	89
North Yorkshire	30	31	39	25	38	41	40	56	55	39	40	38	67
Northamptonshire	4	7	14	5	3	2	2	3	6	1	3	26	68
Northumbria	79	78	86	87	109	126	130	154	160	186	197	193	277
Nottinghamshire	40	36	38	34	41	55	68	95	91	113	117	109	172
South Yorkshire	41	46	48	46	92	109	122	99	136	109	107	111	154
Staffordshire[4]	18	33	37	*	28	51	50	60	49	80	65	50	76
Suffolk	27	19	18	23	25	43	37	55	53	88	72	32	63
Surrey	16	8	10	16	21	22	33	30	30	30	37	36	53
Sussex	53	57	83	64	76	112	99	91	94	108	109	125	142
Thames Valley	54	67	70	47	64	72	66	99	122	142	114	117	200
Warwickshire	14	25	20	16	15	21	14	22	18	24	26	41	39
West Mercia[5]	17	30	19	6	4	2	3	10	75	77	81	66	95
West Midlands	146	126	120	163	247	281	279	290	258	312	315	318	375
West Yorkshire	33	33	42	47	70	81	89	128	142	143	154	192	212
Wiltshire	17	24	28	24	32	24	33	40	41	55	37	21	58
Dyfed-Powys	14	19	29	23	28	30	34	36	34	22	26	33	35
Gwent	19	16	14	17	16	31	19	37	26	44	53	42	60
North Wales	42	50	51	32	39	57	52	60	68	103	79	74	68
South Wales[6]	59	87	91	68	72	96	90	109	100	133	124	109	169
England and Wales	2,878	3,244	2,995	2,825	3,375	4,336	4,412	4,802	4,892	5,104	4,939	5,096	6,287

'—' = Nil

* = Not available

[1] Includes offences of having an article with a blade or point in a public place or on school premises.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Data have been omitted for West Mercia Police Force Area (for the offence of having an article with a blade or point on school premises) from 1999-2004 due to data quality issues.

[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 3: Number of defendants aged under 18 convicted at all courts for possession of offensive weapons (excluding knives), by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	23	14	17	17	20	29	25	23	30	31	29	29	19
Bedfordshire	8	4	8	7	8	6	6	24	6	14	13	15	12
Cambridgeshire	8	7	4	11	14	12	7	6	19	10	11	8	13
Cheshire	18	22	12	24	21	17	11	26	27	34	20	21	14
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	17	7	14	14	20	13	16	18	12	18	15	26	21
Cumbria	10	15	9	7	10	9	13	9	10	15	16	12	6
Derbyshire	18	13	20	15	18	16	19	29	29	23	25	29	16
Devon and Cornwall	13	10	11	18	13	16	19	25	22	24	21	29	23
Dorset	5	5	8	9	6	3	5	8	9	12	11	15	5
Durham	20	17	25	23	29	19	12	23	20	30	33	20	18
Essex	35	28	22	23	35	32	28	52	29	41	43	31	35
Gloucestershire	8	16	4	9	7	9	7	10	16	7	17	10	2
Greater Manchester	64	66	86	83	121	116	95	133	123	97	125	101	73
Hampshire	31	30	28	34	50	45	33	44	55	57	58	55	47
Hertfordshire	4	7	5	22	14	6	12	20	22	18	29	26	11

Table 3: Number of defendants aged under 18 convicted at all courts for possession of offensive weapons (excluding knives), by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Humberside	9	23	25	18	21	17	30	34	23	20	34	32	22
Kent	25	29	25	27	37	25	27	33	47	50	36	44	39
Lancashire	39	16	26	38	38	31	35	45	58	46	64	61	47
Leicestershire	21	24	16	25	22	22	30	27	18	25	40	22	10
Lincolnshire	5	18	6	8	17	7	12	20	8	11	16	6	5
Merseyside	40	46	25	31	49	40	34	57	66	56	67	74	53
Metropolitan police	187	169	169	241	339	377	304	392	384	376	415	526	350
Norfolk	12	16	6	10	11	6	14	12	13	11	15	14	8
North Yorkshire	8	5	13	8	3	9	9	15	11	13	25	16	10
Northamptonshire	3	8	15	7	4	7	—	5	1	4	6	15	12
Northumbria	54	75	70	69	81	96	66	81	87	69	76	74	66
Nottinghamshire	13	29	22	31	48	35	38	39	44	33	48	35	25
South Yorkshire	19	23	26	37	36	43	37	45	42	39	47	52	41
Staffordshire[3]	20	13	20	*	25	14	22	31	39	25	30	17	19
Suffolk	9	6	11	5	6	9	11	11	26	20	17	10	13
Surrey	4	5	4	11	13	7	11	12	14	12	12	10	6
Sussex	8	12	14	12	19	15	19	32	39	27	34	26	19
Thames Valley	21	20	18	16	30	26	17	18	42	39	41	40	32
Warwickshire	9	7	5	8	6	2	6	10	4	9	8	8	9
West Mercia	8	11	15	6	23	19	14	17	28	36	21	21	15
West Midlands	54	70	65	94	129	118	92	91	102	115	121	124	108
West Yorkshire	41	39	56	55	48	54	86	77	84	83	60	61	40
Wiltshire	5	7	13	5	9	16	10	9	20	19	9	12	5
Dyfed-Powys	4	9	5	11	3	5	9	7	4	7	6	10	9
Gwent	10	9	14	15	15	10	13	20	13	21	12	13	8
North Wales	9	12	4	24	16	15	8	20	31	18	21	14	20
South Wales[4]	26	32	29	34	33	35	34	43	25	36	33	27	25
Total	945	994	990	1,162	1,467	1,408	1,296	1,653	1,702	1,651	1,780	1,791	1,331

'—' = Nil

* = Not available

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 4: Number of defendants aged 18 years and over convicted at all courts for possession of offensive weapons (excluding knives), by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	135	147	117	99	104	98	146	125	139	139	148	149	133
Bedfordshire	34	47	38	33	38	50	57	44	75	66	75	57	71
Cambridgeshire	43	63	54	41	46	51	62	46	58	61	64	78	72
Cheshire	91	67	80	74	61	72	67	80	106	92	92	94	108
City of London	10	7	6	13	9	20	12	13	10	6	7	12	10
Cleveland	55	59	40	66	47	74	78	90	87	101	97	114	103
Cumbria	41	61	43	45	40	33	37	53	58	49	73	56	58
Derbyshire	96	74	100	77	88	78	82	110	116	107	118	91	98
Devon and Cornwall	138	121	110	85	113	110	136	103	120	130	95	108	112
Dorset	26	39	40	44	40	37	51	57	71	41	54	49	53
Durham	64	86	90	90	88	69	77	82	112	89	89	77	80
Essex	131	129	114	101	123	107	99	147	149	146	135	159	159
Gloucestershire	49	51	29	37	46	54	41	48	62	47	36	50	41
Greater Manchester	334	443	355	324	367	341	387	492	459	446	480	413	386
Hampshire	172	158	138	130	133	155	191	184	177	196	184	192	149
Hertfordshire	54	42	63	80	73	65	80	100	122	98	90	83	67
Humberside	98	111	91	81	76	94	116	127	130	107	112	112	116

Table 4: Number of defendants aged 18 years and over convicted at all courts for possession of offensive weapons (excluding knives), by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Kent	132	185	140	131	129	161	158	137	162	148	152	185	147
Lancashire	154	190	152	143	168	175	168	197	200	199	200	212	205
Leicestershire	86	119	95	119	97	112	113	126	140	116	132	114	65
Lincolnshire	74	69	61	53	81	67	51	76	73	58	58	54	64
Merseyside	198	223	169	129	158	207	211	244	264	282	290	275	280
Metropolitan police	1,249	1,158	937	950	1,202	1,564	1,458	1,492	1,554	1,460	1,448	1,593	1,386
Norfolk	76	72	73	51	62	73	64	87	89	96	66	58	56
North Yorkshire	78	91	53	54	52	42	48	57	69	61	77	74	93
Northamptonshire	45	61	55	52	34	50	61	63	53	36	33	59	58
Northumbria	239	281	303	237	280	263	258	251	259	235	269	297	284
Nottinghamshire	104	154	120	122	109	136	177	151	166	150	165	141	142
South Yorkshire	136	129	154	137	111	144	154	187	192	178	163	154	166
Staffordshire[3]	89	110	85	*	88	119	116	97	98	114	138	117	111
Suffolk	60	40	64	60	49	49	74	73	77	82	66	44	63
Surrey	36	34	22	39	34	34	38	40	39	42	46	65	57
Sussex	99	90	84	92	90	95	87	97	130	104	119	122	113
Thames Valley	137	122	116	85	105	141	127	134	163	155	153	161	126
Warwickshire	35	30	30	29	26	28	35	47	29	34	43	32	44
West Mercia	87	72	65	51	76	68	77	88	81	132	101	96	92
West Midlands	391	374	342	361	454	470	466	486	452	475	420	471	460
West Yorkshire	234	242	249	182	197	254	242	347	305	259	265	264	240
Wiltshire	31	42	49	46	47	48	39	43	54	52	48	49	59
Dyfed-Powys	55	55	40	41	37	40	50	45	40	31	28	29	27
Gwent	52	68	52	46	44	60	56	71	70	82	72	71	74
North Wales	64	76	62	53	50	58	65	75	79	78	94	90	66
South Wales[4]	164	173	184	167	172	156	181	178	189	161	209	171	178
Total	5,676	5,965	5,264	4,840	5,444	6,122	6,293	6,790	7,078	6,741	6,804	6,892	6,472

'—' = Nil

* = Not available

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Land Registry: Electronic Government

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1286W, on the Land Registry: electronic government, what estimate has been made of the level of fraud which has occurred since Land Registry deeds were placed online. [52439]

Mr Djanogly: No estimate has been made of the level of fraud which has occurred due to Land Registry deeds being placed online. Land Registry does however hold the following information regarding indemnity claims relating to fraud or forgery.

Financial year	*Amount paid for claims relating to fraud or forgery (£)*	*Number of claims paid*
2004-05	491,655.74	15
2005-06	9,834,617.73	31
2006-07	2,123,496.34	24
2007-08	3,953,378.02	60
2008-09	5,072,113.43	62
2009-10	4,947,650.06	53

Please note these figures relate to the year in which the claim was paid, not the year in which the claim was received. All figures are inclusive of costs.

Legal Aid: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents in *(a)* Gateshead constituency and *(b)* Gateshead borough were granted in each of the last three years. [51572]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The LSC does not record the number of applications granted to individual people who apply for legal aid, whether successful or not, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

We are re-examining the data in respect of the geographical areas requested and I will write separately with this information.

Legal Services Commission

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many matter starts were held back by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) in respect of family law from the total number which the LSC indicated they were tendering for in respect of family law services when the LSC initially indicated the result of the family law tender in July 2010. [51778]

Mr Djanogly: Procurement Plans were published prior to the launch of the tender process for Social Welfare Law and Family Services. These specified the volume of matter starts the LSC would advertise in each Procurement Area/Access Point (based on usage in the period September 2008 to August 2009). No matter starts were held back at any point in the tender process, although in some Procurement Areas the volume of work tendered for was less than matters available. However, the tender process for Family and Family and Housing services was quashed following successful legal challenge and so these services continue to be delivered under the 2007 Unified Contract (Civil).

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which organisation liability for meeting the costs from legal action arising from the Legal Services Commission's 2010 family tender exercise has been assigned. [51779]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission will meet the cost of this legal action.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when, by whom at the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and on what basis a decision to hold back matter starts in respect of the family law tender was taken; and when and by what means such a course of action was indicated by the LSC to *(a)* its own personnel, *(b)* providers and *(c)* others. [51780]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1120W. No matter starts have been held back at any stage in the tender process. No such decisions have therefore been made.

Legal Services Commission: Witnesses

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests for prior authority the Legal Services Commission received from expert witnesses in each of the last five years; how many such requests were *(a)* approved (i) in full and (ii) in part and *(b)* declined; and if he will give a breakdown by category of the reasons why such requests were declined. [52200]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not receive requests for prior authority direct from expert witnesses. Legally aided expert witnesses are contracted directly by solicitors, who are able to apply to the LSC for prior authority in respect of expert costs which are either unusual in their nature or unusually high.

The following tables show the number of requests for prior authority to instruct an expert witness in civil legal aid cases that have been (a) granted, (b) refused and (c) rejected in the last five years in England and Wales; and a breakdown by category of the reasons why requests were refused.

The figures provided for granted applications include applications which have been partially granted, as this information is not recorded separately.

Applications for prior authority are rejected when the LSC is unable to make a decision on whether prior authority should be granted because the application is in some way incomplete. Such applications are returned to the provider with a request for the information required to make a decision.

Civil—Outcome of applications for prior authority

	Grant		*Refuse*		*Reject*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2006-07	9,950	80	2,320	19	94	1	12,364
2007-08	8,220	77	2,337	22	125	1	10,682
2008-09	8,151	79	2,106	20	139	1	10,396
2009-10	8,662	75	2,690	23	175	2	11,527
2010-11	9,233	72	3,193	25	325	3	12,751
Total	44,216	77	12,646	22	858	1	57,720

Refusal reasons[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Justify on Taxation or assessment (The authority sought is neither unusual in its nature nor does it involve unusually high expenditure. It is therefore appropriate to justify this item on taxation/assessment.)	719	828	607	595	852	3,601
Excessive Estimate	506	393	428	490	526	2,343
No breakdown provided	332	446	392	322	674	2,166
No Estimate Details	382	292	293	380	443	1,790
No alternative Quotes	232	180	185	259	354	1,210
Not within the regulations	153	155	186	168	118	780
Not Completed Where Marked	—	90	112	131	221	554

Refusal reasons[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Outside the scope of the certificate	84	91	82	163	134	554
Expense not reasonable/necessary	105	95	100	109	121	530
Court Order	—	—	51	166	259	476
Insufficient Information	59	48	48	122	191	468
Apportionment—insufficient information	32	33	81	179	136	461
S22(4) apportionment (family) (The request covers work which should be borne by the other party or apportioned between the parties having regard to section 22(4) Access to Justice Act 1999 and all the circumstances.)	—	—	20	158	231	409
Not retrospective (A prior authority cannot operate retrospectively. As the expenditure has been incurred it should be justified on taxation or assessment.)	84	67	60	59	101	371
No Expert Details	94	64	50	67	65	340
No breakdown of therapy	143	64	32	26	26	291
Excluded work (family)	—	—	13	102	128	243
Absence of evidence/opinion	83	90	45	6	12	236
Insufficient info on cost to be incurred	38	20	50	47	55	210
Non-allowable disbursement (family)	—	—	9	134	65	208
Form Not Signed	—	25	15	36	93	169
Leading Counsel (It is not considered that the use of more than one counsel is justified having regard to the issues of the case and/or the value of the claim.)	43	21	36	44	8	152
Contact Assessment, not Risk Assessment	—	—	—	68	67	135
Joint instruct/apportionment-insufficient info (Insufficient information provided on possible joint instruction and apportionment.)	18	8	19	43	35	123
No Documents	28	29	5	10	39	111
Further Report not justified	27	32	13	20	16	108
Authority already obtained	17	20	22	14	30	103
Parent Assess: No leave of court	39	14	3	16	13	85
Form Not Dated	—	13	8	18	45	84
Private client	4	10	23	21	8	66
(9) Residential assessment excluded	—	9	16	22	17	64
Parent Assess: Insufficient info	15	17	5	13	8	58
Other quotes	7	4	9	8	20	48
No Statement	11	1	5	12	17	46
Parent Assess: Not Costs Sharing Order	20	10	1	10	2	43
Contact assess—CAFCASS/reasonableness	12	10	14	4	—	40
Contact assessment—no court order	13	14	9	2	—	38
Jurisdiction/vires-not disbursement	—	8	16	11	3	38
Contact assess—reasonableness/extent	8	11	8	3	—	30
Use of Counsel	3	2	9	1	15	30
Cost limit increase required	9	11	—	5	3	28
Local experts (In the absence of details of alternative quotes from local experts, it is not possible to be satisfied that the quote obtained is reasonable.)	3	3	7	7	8	28
Assisted persons financial resources	3	3	4	10	7	27
Jurisdiction/not within reg.61	1	8	10	5	3	27
Insufficient estimate details (family)	—	—	3	12	10	25
Transcript not justified	5	4	3	8	5	25
Counsel's Opinion/Solicitor's Report	5	2	3	2	7	19
Attendance unnecessary	1	2	4	3	4	14
Parent Assess: Unreasonable despite CSO (While the court has made an order/direction in this matter, it is not considered reasonable to grant the authority sought having regard to the circumstances of the case, the Local Authority's role and Note for Guidance 8-18.)	2	3	1	2	6	14
Single expert - insufficient information	1	—	4	4	5	14
Parent Assess: Parties views (The views of each party towards the assessment not provided. Request refused as without this there is insufficient information to consider it properly.)	2	3	1	6	1	13
Parent Assess: Insufficient experts info	2	3	1	4	2	12
Parent Assess: No info on joint experts	4	1	5	—	2	12
Amendment is appropriate	3	1	2	2	1	9
Late application	—	1		2	5	8
No costs benefit	—	—	5	2	1	8

Refusal reasons[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Non section38(6) assess(parents/carers) (On the information provided it is not considered reasonable for the Community Legal Service Fund to bear the costs of an assessment having regard to all the circumstances, including the assessment work already carried out and the apparent history of the client.)	—	1	1	4	1	7
SCHAR—No prior authority (Prior authority cannot be granted as instructing a solicitor with higher court advocacy rights is not a step falling within the relevant regulations for such prior authorities.)	—	1	3	3	—	7
Sufficient financial resources (It appears from the information provided that the assisted person has sufficient financial resources to meet the proposed expenditure.)	2	—	2	2	1	7
Parent Assess: Request history	—	—	—	—	3	3
Use of More than One Counsel	1	—	1	1	—	3
(9) Full Representation—LH/FHL (It is considered on the information available that the nature and importance of the case is such that Legal Help and/or Family Help (Lower) would be more appropriate.)	—	—	1	1	—	2
Family - contracted mediator	1	—	—	1	—	2
Family - contracted mediator available	1	—	1	—	—	2
NHS Medical Negligence Mediation	1	—	—	—	1	2
Mediation costs excessive	—	1	—	—	—	1
No use of dev powers (Auth. Rep only) (It is considered that this is a matter for which devolved powers should have been exercised. As the use of devolved powers is mandatory this is a matter for your solicitors.)	—	—	—	—	1	1
Not recognised mediator—non family	1	—	—	—	—	1
Special reasons (Caseworker uses their own wording when refusing a request)	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tape Recording not justified	1	—	—	—	—	1
Grand total	3,360	3,263	3,142	4,145	5,225	—

[1] Some applications have more than one refusal reason. As a result the totals for this table will differ from those above.

The following table shows the total number of requests for prior authority to instruct an expert witness in criminal legal aid cases that have been (a) granted, (b) part granted and (c) refused in the last two years in England and Wales. The information requested is only available for 2009-10 and 2010-11. Prior to this date the information was only recorded manually on the relevant case file, and could be supplied only at a disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown by category of the reasons why applications were declined as the LSC caseworker uses their own wording when refusing a request rather than choosing an option from a pre-determined list. In general, applications for prior authority are only refused if they fall outside the LSC's published guidance.

Crime—Outcome of applications for prior authority

	Grant		*Part Grant*		*Refused*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2009-10	22,080	80	5,260	19	282	1	27,622
2010-11	19,437	75	6,278	24	319	1	26,034
Total	41,517	77	11,538	22	601	1	53,656

Magistrates

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many days on average a justice of the peace sat in the most recent year for which figures are available. [52196]

Mr Djanogly: Sittings are measured in half days. The average number of sittings for a justice of the peace for the year ending 31 March 2010 was 37.

Magistrates: Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much on average justices of the peace claimed in expenses in the most recent year for which figures are available. [52195]

Mr Djanogly: Based on provisional data, the total cost of expenses claimed by justices of the peace for the financial year ending 31 March 2011, was £17 million. This approximates to an average of £767 per claimant, per annum.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average proportion of the costs arising from a day's hearing in a magistrates court attributable to expenses paid to justices of the peace. [52197]

Mr Djanogly: It is estimated that 7% of the total day's hearings costs (excluding rent and rates of the courthouse, if applicable) are attributable to expenses paid to justices of the peace.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to amend the rate of expenses payable to justices of the peace; and if he will make a statement. [52201]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service is in discussion with the Magistrates Association and the National Bench Chairs' Forum about possible changes to the travel and subsistence allowances that magistrates receive in the course of their judicial work. No decisions have been made.

National Offender Management Service

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many probation officers the National Offender Management Service employs; [52258]

(2) whether he plans to reduce the number of probation officers working for the National Offender Management Service. [52259]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not directly employ probation officers or other probation staff: they are employees of the 35 Probation Trusts, which are Non-Departmental Public Bodies sponsored by the Ministry of Justice.

As at 31 December 2010, 6,976.31 fully-qualified probation officers (full-time equivalents) were employed by Probation Trusts in England and Wales. This includes all those in the senior probation officer, senior practitioner, probation officer and practice development assessor job-groups and is the latest available staff-in-post figure for those grades. It has been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

To protect Probation Trusts and front-line probation services, the Government have undertaken a radical streamlining of NOMS, which will achieve savings of at least 33% at national and regional level. This means that the efficiency savings Probation Trusts will need to find are limited to about 10% of their expenditure over the four years of the spending review period. Like NOMS, Probation Trusts can make savings by reducing bureaucracy and finding new ways of working: this will enable resources to be concentrated on sustaining front-line provision.

National Offender Management Service: Race Relations

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to address the gap between black and ethnic minority staff and Caucasian staff in relation to performance-related pay identified in the National Offender Management Service diversity review for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [51964]

Mr Blunt: The NOMS Equalities Annual Report 2009-10 reports that white staff are more likely to achieve the 'exceeded' marking in the Staff Performance and Development Review (SPDR) process that triggers performance pay for some grades of staff. The report expresses concern at this fact and explains that a programme of work is being taken forward to make the SPDR process more structured, and to increase the accountability of those giving markings through the use of moderation panels. This is taking place alongside broader programmes of work to improve performance management across the piece and to provide better support for line managers.

Personal Injury: Mediation

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's publication, Solving Disputes in the County Courts, Creating a Simpler, Quicker and More Proportionate System, Consultation Paper C56, March 2011, whether his proposals for compulsory mediation apply in respect of personal injury claims. [52460]

Mr Djanogly: It is proposed in the consultation that all small claims cases are automatically referred to mediation. However, only those personal injury cases valued at under £1,000 are dealt with in the small claims track, so only those cases would come under the scope of the automatic referral. We have also asked consultees whether certain categories of cases should be exempted from the mediation process. In addition, we are consulting on the possible introduction of mediation information or assessment sessions for cases outside the small claims track. These could apply to personal injury cases, but again we are asking consultees whether certain cases should be exempted from this process.

Police: Prison Accommodation

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in police cells in each police force area in 2010; and at what estimated cost to the public purse. [52403]

Mr Blunt: No police cells under Operation Safeguard were used in 2010. Police cells, under Operation Safeguard, have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells, under Operation Safeguard, have been on stand by since the end of October 2008. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 550-52W, which provided the aggregated total number of prisoner nights in which an Operation Safeguard police cell was used over the last five years.

Additionally, prisoners may also be held overnight in police cells as a "lockout". Lockouts can arise from a number of factors, including late court sittings, which can compromise the contractors' ability to deliver the prisoner to prison prior to the reception closure time.

In 2010 a total of 220 prisoners were held overnight in a police cell as a lockout.

Number of lockouts in 2010 by police force area

Police force	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	0
Bedfordshire	4
BTP	0
Buckinghamshire	0
Cambridgeshire	0
Cheshire	0
City of London	0
Cleveland	0
Cumbria	0
Derbyshire	0

Number of lockouts in 2010 by police force area

Police force	*Total*
Devon and Cornwall	4
Dorset	3
Durham	0
Dyfed Powys	0
Essex	9
Gloucestershire	0
Greater Manchester	1
Gwent	1
Hampshire	8
Hertfordshire	10
Humberside	3
Kent	19
Lancashire	0
Leicestershire	11
Lincolnshire	2
Merseyside	0
Met Police	101
Middlesex	0
Norfolk	0
N. Yorkshire	1
North Wales	0
Northamptonshire	1
Northumbria	0
Nottinghamshire	0
S. Yorkshire	1
S. Wales	0
Staffordshire	1
Suffolk	7
Surrey	2
Sussex	19
Thames Valley	10
W. Mercia	0
W. Midlands	0
W. Yorkshire	0
Warwickshire	2
Wiltshire	0
Total	220

Under an agreement between NOMS and ACPO, NOMS are charged a flat rate fee of £55.00 per prisoner per night for the use of these cells.

Prison Visitors: Drugs

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prison were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in 2009-10; how many such visitors were referred to the police; and what steps were taken in respect of those not referred to the police. [52402]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of visitors to prisons in England and Wales found in possession of illegal drugs is not recorded centrally. Information on the actions taken in respect of visitors not referred to police is now held at local level. To provide the information would require a detailed investigation into all local records and incur disproportionate cost.

The number of visitors to prisons in England and Wales referred to the police and arrested in relation to drugs during the period 2009-10 was 354. It is NOMS policy to refer all visitors found to be in possession of drugs to the police.

Prisoners' Discharge Grant

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the prisoner discharge grant in each of the last five years. [52415]

Mr Blunt: The cost of discharge grants for the last five years is shown in the following table.

	£000
2009-10	3,883
2008-09	4,378
2007-08	4,407
2006-07	3,509
2005-06	3,737

Some expenditure on subsistence payments for prisoners released on End of Custody Licence during the period 2007-10 is included in the figures. To separate this amount, a survey of all prison establishments would be necessary.

The purpose of the discharge grant is to enable the prisoner to meet their immediate subsistence needs in the first week after release. Whether they are going straight into employment or applying for benefits, they will receive payment in arrears. Without a discharge grant, therefore, there would be an increased risk that prisoners would re-offend in order to meet their immediate financial needs.

Sentenced prisoners are eligible on release for a discharge grant of £46 unless certain exclusions apply. These exclusions include those serving a sentence of 14 days or less, those awaiting deportation or removal from the United Kingdom and those who are known to have in excess of £16,000 in savings (and who would therefore be ineligible for income support under the relevant regulations).

Prisoners: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of *(a)* drug and *(b)* mobile telephone smuggling in female prisons; and if he will make a statement. [52216]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) strategies to reduce drug and mobile telephone smuggling are designed to be implemented flexibly, based on local assessment of risk. Strategy is applied equally across the prison estate with the exception of the searching of prisoners, where slightly different arrangements apply to female prisoners.

Prisons deploy a robust and comprehensive range of security measures to reduce drug supply. These include the use of drug detection dogs, close working with the police, CCTV, use of more effective intelligence systems and mandatory drug testing.

NOMS has implemented a strategy to 'minimise' the number of mobile phones entering prisons, to 'find' phones that do get in and to 'disrupt' mobile phones that cannot be found.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female inmates on the prison estate have access to *(a)* games consoles and *(b)* television; and if he will make a statement. [52217][1]

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[1] *[Official Report, 7 June 2011, Vol. 529, c. 1MC.]*

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to the give exact number of prisoners who have access to televisions and games consoles, as this changes constantly. There are currently 4,241 (at 8 April 2011) women in prison in England and Wales, and most of them have access to television. Her Majesty's Prisons Askham Grange, Bronzefield, Eastwood Park, Holloway, Low Newton and New Hall do not allow access to television where prisoners have been placed on the basic level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme (IEPS).

Prisoners on the enhanced level of the IEPS are allowed to have certain games consoles in possession if they pay for them themselves. The National Offender Management Service does not collect centrally the numbers of prisoners who choose to do this and there would be disproportionate cost in obtaining this number. In addition, a very small number of consoles have been purchased for shared use in association by prisoners on the enhanced level of the IEPS at the following establishments: Askham Grange, Downview, Eastwood Park, New Hall and Styal. At Bronzefield, there is a games console in the Healthcare Centre.

Prisoners: Finance

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on measures to increase the level of financial support available to prisoners *(a)* serving a custodial sentence and *(b)* recently released. [52443]

Mr Blunt: The Government recognise that the exclusion of offenders from accessing legal sources of funds can prevent offenders from re- integrating into the community after their release from custody, and increases the risk that they will reoffend.

To tackle the financial exclusion which offenders can experience a range of work is underway. In partnership with a range of other Government bodies and third sector organisations, officials from the National Offender Management Service are developing initiatives that will ensure that offenders who are in custody and those who have been recently released will have more timely access to state benefits, and financial services. Ministry of Justice Ministers are working with Ministers from HM Treasury and the banking sector to encourage greater availability of bank accounts to prisoners.

Prisoners: Food

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the amount allocated to the daily cost of food for a prisoner in a *(a)* prison cell and *(b)* police station cell was last increased. [52400]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out as follows:

For prisoners in prison cells:

Public sector prisons do not set a daily food allowance as the responsibility for determining prisoner food budgets lies with the governor who will set aside a realistic sum that will meet the dietary needs of the prisoner population. Meal requirements vary between establishments and are based on the prisoner population, local regimes and seasonal availability. The average cost[1] for food (including beverages) per prisoner per day in public sector prisons was £2.20 for the financial year 2010-11.

For prisoners in police station cells:

Under the current agreement (Operation Safeguard) between NOMS and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) an all-inclusive rate is charged which includes the cost of meals and other ancillary items. This agreement was finalised in May 2009.

Prior to this, the agreement between NOMS and ACPO placed an upper limit of £12 expenditure on meals for each prisoner over a 24-hour period.

Prisoners are also held as ad-hoc lockouts (i.e. when the designated prisons reception will be closed before the prisoner's arrival time). Under an agreement between NOMS and ACPO, NOMS are charged a flat rate fee per prisoner per night for the use of these cells. This fee covers incidental expenses such as food, cleaning and administration.

[1] Costs have been calculated using available management information from the NOMS finance systems and assumes that all transactions have been allocated and recorded against the correct accounting codes.

Prisoners: Injuries

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners received a serious injury while in prison in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and what the nature of each such injury was. [52260]

Mr Blunt: The following table details the numbers of serious injuries arising from assault incidents in 2009. The nature of assaults and assaulting behaviour make it complex to capture the full range of information. Given that incidents may not be witnessed or victims may be unwilling to identify perpetrators, the focus of the figures is on numbers of incidents and not individuals. As more than one type of serious injury may occur in a single assault incident the total numbers of serious injuries will be more than the number of serious assault incidents.

Male and female assault incidents, England and Wales, 2009

Injury type	*Number*
All serious injuries	1,032
Fracture	106
Scald or burn	70
Stabbing	37
Crushing	4
Extensive/multiple bruising	73
Black eye	152
Broken nose	57
Broken teeth	41
Cuts requiring sutures	343
Bites	143
Temporary/permanent blindness	6

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last case, the figures may not be accurate to that level.

The figures provided are published annually on the MoJ website and those relating to 2010 are currently being verified for publication later this year. Statistical tables detailing levels of violence, including the further breakdown in to the use of weapons, fights, ages and injuries are available in MoJ Safety in Custody Assault Statistics.

Prisoners: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners had a home address in the St Albans constituency on the most recent date for which figures are available. [52214]

Mr Blunt: Information on a prisoner's residence is provided by prisoners on reception into prison and recorded on a central IT system. Addresses include a prisoner's home address, an address to which they intend to return on discharge and next of kin and these figures are provided in the following table.

If no address is given, a prisoner's committal court address is used as a proxy for the area in which a prisoner is resident. These figures are provided separately in the following table. No address has been recorded and no court information is available for around 3% of prisoners, these figures are excluded from the answer.

The following table shows the number of convicted prisoners as at 25 March 2011 who have a recorded residential address or proxy, as described above in the constituency area of St Albans.

	Number of prisoners
Recorded address	43
Proxy address	218
Total	261

The figures include convicted male and female prisoners, adults, young offenders and juveniles that are held in prisons and young offender institutions.

Prisons: Education

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase educational opportunities at Her Majesty's Prison Latchmere House. [51820]

Mr Blunt: As a resettlement prison for about 200 prisoners, HMP Latchmere House has a primary focus on preparing prisoners for release. Currently, about 95 prisoners are engaged in internal employment or work-based training and there is an education department that accommodates a further 20. In addition 83 prisoners attend a range of external employment or training opportunities.

The education provision in the prison includes Careers Information and Advice Services and some learning and skills to assist offenders attending work and education in the prison while waiting for external opportunities on Release on Temporary Licence (RoTL). Additional support is offered, when needed, to those prisoners working and studying elsewhere in external provision.

The Virtual Campus, a highly secure computer web-based facility gives prisoners access to assessment, learning, career development, information services opportunities and courses while in custody. This is currently scheduled to be installed in the prison later this year, creating and expanding relevant learning for prisoners.

Together with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Ministry of Justice has undertaken a review of offender learning and we plan to publish the outcome in the near future.

Prisons: Video Equipment

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of using video-link equipment available in prisons to record interviews between police and imprisoned witnesses. [52406]

Mr Djanogly: None. However, we are looking at how video technology can improve criminal justice efficiency. As I announced on 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 816-18, we plan to give witnesses the opportunity to give evidence in trials by live video link from a more convenient location. We have started to test the principle of police officers giving evidence in summary trials by live video link from a police station. If successful, this will pave the way for other witnesses to give evidence from a police station or other, more convenient, location rather than travelling to court.

Reoffenders: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of women with a previous conviction reoffended in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [52265]

Mr Blunt: The one year re-conviction data cover all adult offenders released from custody or commencing a court order between January and March of each year. Table 1 as follows shows the one year re-conviction for female adult offenders with previous court convictions for which data are available.

Table1: Re-conviction rates for female adult offenders with one or more previous court convictions (2000, 2002 to 2009)

	Number of offenders	*Number re-convicted*	*Re-conviction rate*
2000	3,947	1,891	47.9
2001	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2002	4,055	2,158	53.2
2003	4,138	2,199	53.1
2004	4,464	2,207	49.4
2005	4,113	1,943	47.2
2006	4,589	2,008	43.8
2007	4,487	1,944	43.3
2008	5,016	2,356	47.0
2009	5,293	2,426	45.8

[1] Data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders.

More information on the re-conviction rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Road Traffic Accident Scheme

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the future stability of the Road Traffic Accident Scheme of his proposals to remove the recoverability of success fees from provisions of the scheme. [52447]

Mr Djanogly: The Government's position on this issue is set out at paragraph 26 of 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's

Recommendations: the Government Response'. The majority of claimants in road traffic accidents have before the event legal expenses insurance and will be able to pursue their claim at no additional cost. Claimant solicitors will still be able to charge their clients a success fee, but rather than receiving a fixed recoverable rate, they will be able to compete for business by setting a lower rate for claimants.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the capacity of the Road Traffic Accident Scheme portal to expand to other areas of personal injury cases; and if he will make a statement. [52448]

Mr Djanogly: The Road Traffic Accident Scheme portal was set up by the insurance industry in conjunction with claimant lawyers to coincide with the introduction of a protocol in April 2010 for road traffic accident personal injury cases. The protocol provided guidance on how claims in such cases should be handled. The portal allows the electronic exchange of documents and is financed and maintained by the insurance industry.

The Ministry of Justice is currently conducting a public consultation on whether the Road Traffic Accident Scheme should be extended to other types of personal injury cases. At the same time, my officials are liaising with the insurance industry to establish whether the current portal can be extended to cover other PI cases or whether an alternative option might be more appropriate.

Sentencing

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prison sentences for *(a)* men and *(b)* women handed down in the last 12 months were for periods shorter than (i) 12 months, (ii) six months and (iii) three months; and if he will make a statement. [52263]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence, by sex and sentence band at all courts, England and Wales for 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Please note that court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of persons sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence by sex and sentence band at all courts, England and Wales, 2009[1, 2]

Outcome	*Male*	*Female*
Total sentenced	1,046,281	314,627
Other sentences	954,519	306,529
Immediate custody	91,762	8,098
Percentage sentenced to immediate custody	8.8	2.6
Less than three months	28,951	3,405
Percentage of custodial sentences within this band	31.6	42.0
Less than six months (including those less than three months)	46,803	4,935
Percentage of custodial sentences within this band	51.0	60.9
Less than 12 months (including those less than three and six months)	58,213	5,991
Percentage of custodial sentences within this band	63.4	74.0
12 months and over	33,549	2,107
Percentage of custodial sentences within this band	36.6	26.0

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Sentencing: Appeals

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many successful appeals were made on human rights grounds against conditions or restrictions on a release licence following a custodial sentence for a terrorism offence in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010; [52028]

(2) how many successful appeals were made on the basis of Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 against conditions or restrictions on a release licence following a custodial sentence for a terrorism offence in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010; [52029]

(3) how many successful appeals were made on the basis of Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 against conditions or restrictions on a release licence following a custodial sentence in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010; [52032]

(4) how many successful appeals were made on human rights grounds against conditions or restrictions on a release licence following a custodial sentence in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010; [52033]

(5) how many successful appeals were made against conditions or restrictions on a release licence following a custodial sentence in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010; [52034]

(6) how many successful appeals were made against conditions or restrictions on a release licence following a custodial sentence for terrorism offence in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [52035]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners, including those convicted of terrorist related offences, do not have an administrative right of appeal against the inclusion of conditions onto their licence. They are able to challenge the conditions of their licence, either by making representations to their probation offender manager and the probation trust which employs him or to the Parole Board or by applying for a judicial review. Information on the number of offenders who submit such challenges and/or do so successfully is not held centrally. To provide this information would require a manual interrogation of individual offender records. Such an exercise would incur disproportionate cost.

Sentencing: Offenders

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what circumstances a sentencing judge may exceed sentencing guidelines when considering sentences on persistent offenders; and if he will make a statement. [51794]

Mr Blunt: The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 requires sentencers when sentencing offences committed after 6 April 2010 to follow guidelines issued by the Sentencing Council for England and Wales or its predecessor the Sentencing Guidelines Council, unless it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so.

The requirement 'to follow' is a requirement to sentence within the offence range set in a guideline; it does not require the court to sentence within any category range set within that offence range. Typically an offence range is divided into category ranges for offences of different categories of seriousness. Sentencers are free to sentence outside the category range if they see fit. Sentencers may sentence above the offence range if it would be contrary to the interests of justice not to do so, provided that the top of the offence range in the guideline is set lower than the maximum penalty available in law for the offence. Where the sentencer departs from the guidelines he or she must explain the reasons for doing so in open court.

Any previous convictions, where they are recent and relevant, should be regarded as an aggravating factor which should increase the severity of the sentence. This statutory aggravating factor is reflected in sentencing guidelines. The guideline "Overarching Principles: Seriousness" issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council in 2004 states that it will be an aggravating factor that an offender has previous convictions,

> "particularly where a pattern of repeat offending is disclosed".

Sentencers are required to have regard to the guidelines when sentencing offences committed before 6 April 2010.

Squatting

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to disseminate its recent guidance on the law in respect of squatting. [51595]

Mr Blunt: Guidance on "Dealing with squatters in your home" was produced jointly by the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). It was initially published in November 2010 but was strengthened on 21 March 2011. The revised version was accompanied by a press notice. Both the guidance and the press notice can be viewed on the DCLG website and a shorter version of the guidance is available on the 'DirectGov' website. The guidance has received widespread media coverage and we have also referred to it in on many occasions in responses to correspondence and parliamentary questions on this subject.

Squatting: Scotland

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of the legal framework in Scotland in respect of squatting. [51691]

Mr Blunt: We are aware of the provisions in the Trespass (Scotland) Act 1865. We will be considering these carefully as we develop our proposals in this area.

Vendside

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the eligibility for registration as a claims handler of Vendside Ltd. [51853]

Mr Djanogly: No assessment has been made since Vendside Ltd surrendered its registration as a claims handler under the Compensation Act 2006 in March 2010.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the charges imposed on clients for accessing files relating to miners' compensation claims by Vendside Ltd; and if he will make a statement. [51855]

Mr Djanogly: The Secretary of State does not have the jurisdiction to assess such charges. However, Subject Access requests (SARS) made under the Data Protection Act 1998 to organisations for the personal information they hold on individuals, are normally limited to a £10 charge for each request.

Youth Justice Board

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what means he proposes to integrate the Youth Justice Board into his Department. [52261]

Mr Blunt: The transition of the functions of the Youth Justice Board into the Ministry of Justice is subject to the passage of the Public Bodies Bill.

The Government propose that the main functions of the Youth Justice Board should be delivered within an identifiable, dedicated section of the Ministry of Justice.

This dedicated section will be part of the Justice Policy Group and will set the coherent framework for youth justice, led by a member of the senior civil service and reporting directly to a director general and to the Minister with responsibility for youth justice.

The youth justice section will be outside of the National Offender Management Service ensuring that the commissioning of the youth secure estate continues to be driven by people who have a dedicated focus on the needs of young people.

The Ministry of Justice is working with the Youth Justice Board on the transition of their functions into the Department.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Anguilla: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has disbursed to Anguilla from its economic diversification fund in the latest period for which figures are available. [51890]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not disbursed any funds for economic diversification in Anguilla in recent years.

Burma: International Assistance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the government of Burma on restrictions on the delivery of aid to Burma. [51551]

Mr Duncan: Department for International Development (DFID) staff and the British ambassador in Rangoon are in frequent contact with the Burmese authorities regarding UK aid for Burma. All our aid is channelled through UN agencies, international non-governmental organisations and Burmese community-based organisations. With strict monitoring, we are confident that it reaches its intended recipients effectively. DFID also provides aid cross-border from neighbouring countries to people in conflict-affected areas of Burma who cannot be reached from within the country.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the policy of the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria on funding projects in Karen state, Burma; and if he will make a statement. [51552]

Mr Duncan: We expect the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to fund projects across Burma where its staff and agents are able to monitor its activities, including in parts of Karen state. It will not however fund projects in areas where access is restricted as a result of conflict.

A number of alternative means are available for delivering aid to conflict-affected areas of Burma cross-border from neighbouring countries. In 2010 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £825,000 in cross-border health sector aid to ethnic minority groups inside Burma.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on changes made to aid delivery by the government of Burma in order to enable the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to operate in that country. [51554]

Mr Duncan: The decision by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in November 2010 to resume its work in Burma was informed by the success of the multi-donor Three Diseases Fund which was established following GFATM's withdrawal from the country in 2005. The Three Diseases Fund has demonstrated that it is possible to deliver aid effectively in Burma through United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organisations and local community-based organisations. GFATM's operations in Burma will be modelled on those of the Three Diseases Fund.

Burundi: Overseas Aid

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 374W, on development aid, how much aid his Department provided to Burundi in the last year for which figures are available; and how much aid he plans to provide in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [51510]

Mr O'Brien: In the financial year 2009-10, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £13 million for Burundi. The latest forecast for 2010-11 is £10.9 million. DFID plans to provide £10 million in bilateral support to Burundi in 2011-12.

From 2012-13, DFID will cease direct bilateral aid and will concentrate exclusively on furthering Burundi's integration into the East African Community (EAC) through regional funding. DFID has initially contributed £6 million to a multi donor trust fund that will support the organisation TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) in all five EAC countries, including Burundi. This funding, among other things, will cover the remaining £5.4 million required by TMEA Burundi. We consider this to be the single most important contributing factor to Burundi's economic growth in the medium term.

Burundi will continue to benefit from UK funding provided through the multilateral development organisations. This amounted to £12.7 million in 2008-09.

Commonwealth: Overseas Aid

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's aid budget was spent assisting Commonwealth countries in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion he expects to be spent assisting Commonwealth countries in the next three years. [51141]

Mr Duncan: Details of the Department of International Development (DFID) aid expenditure in developing countries, including Commonwealth countries, are published in Statistics on International Development (SID) which is available in the House Library or online at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Indicative plans for future DFID bilateral spending were published in the "Bilateral Aid Review: Technical Report" also available on DFID's website. The proportion of DFID's country specific bilateral aid programme spent assisting Commonwealth countries in each of the last 10 years and plans for the next three years are laid out in the following table.

Proportion of DFID aid to Commonwealth countries 2001

	Percentage of country specific bilateral aid programme
Out-turn	
2000-01	69
2001-02	66

Proportion of DFID aid to Commonwealth countries 2001

	Percentage of country specific bilateral aid programme
2002-03	59
2003-04	52
2004-05	58
2005-06	57
2006-07	57
2007-08	56
2008-09	55
2009-10	54
Projected	
2010-11	53
2011-12	54
2012-13	55

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51521]

Mr Duncan: We are working through the exact implications of the full spending review 2010 settlement. It is therefore not possible to estimate all of the workforce implications over the next 24 months.

We have forecast a reduction in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) corporate services of between 25% and 30%. Reductions in other areas have not yet been forecast.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51424]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides 728 officials with mobile phone and communication devices in the UK. DFID's overseas offices have devolved responsibility for purchasing mobile phones and communication devices. Collating the information on the number of mobile phones in use by DFID staff overseas would incur disproportionate cost.

The total spend on UK and overseas mobile communication devices was £222,789 in the 2010-11 financial year.

Public Bodies

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men no longer serve on public bodies sponsored by his Department because of decisions to merge, reorganise or abolish such bodies since May 2010. [51440]

Mr Duncan: There are no women or men who no longer serve on public bodies sponsored by the Department for International Development (DFID) because of decisions to merge, reorganise or abolish such bodies since May 2010.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51384]

Mr Duncan: The vacancy rate in the Department for International Development (DFID) for 2010-11 was 2.8%.

DFID is currently refining operational plans for 2011-12 and the precise impact of this exercise in respect of staffing and vacancy rates is not yet known.

Developing Countries: Biodiversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget is spent on projects to protect biodiversity; and what plans he has for future expenditure on projects of this type. [50960]

Mr O'Brien: In 2009, the Department for International Development (DFID) disbursements on programmes with biodiversity related benefits were £41.3 million. This included our contribution to the Global Environment Facility.

Going forward, the Government have pledged a contribution of £210 million for the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) from 2010 to 2014, which will be managed by DFID. The GEF is the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with 28.6% of the GEF budget now being allocated to support biodiversity programmes in GEF eligible countries. The UK's contribution to the GEF should be seen in the wider context of DFID's programmes which will have significant benefits for biodiversity. For example; DFID's support of £500,000 to The Economics of Ecosystem Services study; £24 million for the Forest Governance and Trade bilateral programme (FGT), which will continue to tackle illegal logging and related trade through governance and market reforms which will have dramatic impacts on the biodiversity of forests; ongoing support to the UN Poverty and Environment Initiative; and support to the Darwin Initiative.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the £735 million contributed by the Government to the multilateral banks' climate investment fund has been spent on projects under the fund to date. [52393]

Mr O'Brien: The UK's contribution to the climate investment funds (CIFs) is combined with other donors' funds and it is not possible to track the UK's contribution separately. As of 31 December 2010 the CIFs had endorsed a total of $4.6 billion for investment plans. Of this, the Trust Fund Committee has approved projects totalling $984 million and has disbursed $116 million to recipient countries.

Developing Countries: Food

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking *(a)* unilaterally and *(b)* in partnership with other governments and international institutions (i) to avoid food price volatility and (ii) to reduce food prices in least-developed countries. [52237]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is closely monitoring food prices in developing countries. Together with other members of the G20, the UK is developing measures to manage international food price volatility and mitigate the impact on the poorest. Measures being explored include better market information on grain stocks and strengthening international disciplines on export restrictions on food.

Though high prices harm consumers, higher prices can sometimes benefit producers by increasing their income. However, DFID's bilateral programme is ensuring that the poor are better able to cope with higher food prices. For example, DFID support the Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia which ensures that 8 million previously dependent on emergency aid maintain a basic standard of living. Improving agricultural production in developing countries will help to ensure food is affordable in the long term. For example DFID support in Malawi has helped over 2 million people access high yielding maize and legume seeds.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proposals he plans to make at the next G20 summit to *(a)* stabilise and reduce food prices and *(b)* promote long-term investment in agriculture in developing countries. [52238]

Mr O'Brien: Together with other members of the G20, the UK is supporting measures to manage food price volatility and mitigate its impact on the poorest. Measures to reduce volatility under discussion include: provision of better market information on grain stocks; strengthening international disciplines on export restrictions on food; and measures to minimise impact of high prices on the poorest, including potential mechanisms to assist developing countries to meet higher food import bills in times of crisis and to draw up plans for implementation.

The UK is also supporting G20 proposals aimed at strengthening international agricultural research and innovation as well as measures to ensure better governance, property rights regimes and a secure regulatory environment for investors.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what policies his Department is pursuing with the World Bank, regional development banks and the International Monetary Fund to encourage investment in agriculture to reduce food insecurity in least-developed countries. [52239]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has been working with the World Bank and other members of the G20 Food Security Experts Working Group to develop proposals for managing food price volatility and mitigating its impact on the poorest and most vulnerable people in developing countries.

DFID does not provide direct support to the African Development Bank (AfDB) or the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) on agriculture and food security policies. DFID does however work with AfDB to support Africa's own initiative, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development programme (CAADP), which aims to raise agricultural growth to at least 6% and increase public investment in agriculture to 10% of the national budget. So far 18 African countries have drafted National Investment Plans which aim to provide an enabling framework for public and private investment in agriculture. In South Asia, DFID works with the World Bank on the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFNSI) which aims to tackle food security and nutrition by addressing issues of availability access and utilization of food.

Developing Countries: Forests

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is providing funding to the Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries programme. [51984]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Yes. Around 17% of global greenhouse gas emissions result from deforestation, more than global emissions from all means of transport, so it is important that we work quickly to stem the loss of forests around the world.

The UK is playing a leading role in these efforts, providing £300 million over the period 2010-12 for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This money is helping to reduce poverty in communities which depend on forests for a living and protect the rich biodiversity found in tropical forests, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The UK has also committed £2.9 billion for climate finance from 2011-15, and we will be reviewing how best to use part of this additional funding to complement our existing efforts to reduce global rates of deforestation. Long-standing UK support to combat illegal logging and curb the related trade in illegally harvested timber also makes an important contribution to global efforts to stem the loss of forests.

Developing Countries: Poverty

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent to promote awareness in the UK of global poverty in 2010-11; which organisations his Department has consulted in its review of using aid funds for this purpose; when he expects to publish the report of this review; what assessment he has made of the work of the review team to date; and if he will make a statement. [51461]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In 2010-11 the Department for International Development spent approximately £17.2 million on projects designed to promote awareness in the UK of global poverty.

A review was launched in January 2011 to assess the impact and effectiveness of existing development awareness work and to provide evidence based advice on whether, and if so how, DFID should continue to use aid funds in the UK to promote awareness of global poverty and ways for the public to be involved in efforts to address it. The review is expected to report in late spring. The list of stakeholders interviewed in the course of the review will be included in the report when published.

I will make an assessment of the review once it has been completed.

Developing Countries: Syphilis

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what action his Department is taking to reduce the *(a)* effects of and *(b)* number of deaths from congenital syphilis in developing countries around the world. [51297]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) new Framework for Results for improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health recognises the importance of strengthening integrated service delivery in developing countries. This means ensuring that evidence-based, cost-effective interventions—including syphilis screening and treatment—are a part of routine antenatal care and that there is improved access to this care by all pregnant women.

DFID's action in support of developing country governments' plans to strengthen health services and, in particular, to improve access for poor people is helping make these interventions more widely available.

Developing Countries: Water

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of people worldwide who do not have access to safe water. [52056]

Mr O'Brien: According to the latest figures published in the World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Report 2010, in 2008 884 million people worldwide did not have access to improved sources of drinking water. Figures for 2010 will be published in March 2012.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of people worldwide who do not have access to adequate sanitation. [52060]

Mr O'Brien: According to the latest figures published in the World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Report 2010, in 2008 2.6 billion people worldwide did not have access to improved sanitation. Figures for 2010 will be published in March 2012.

Overseas Aid

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the richest country is to which the UK provides development aid; and what form such aid takes. [51511]

Mr Duncan: Provisional figures for 2010 show that Trinidad and Tobago was the richest country in receipt of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) in terms of gross national income per capita (GNI per capita). According to World Bank figures, in 2009 GNI per capita in Trinidad and Tobago was US$16,700. Provisional figures show that £30,000 of UK ODA was provided to Trinidad and Tobago in 2010. This relates to a legacy commitment made by the British Government in 1970, that it would assume responsibility from overseas governments for the payment of pensions due to expatriate colonial civil servants who had been appointed by or on behalf of the Secretary of State of the Colonies. A proportion of these pension payments are classified as ODA in line with the internationally agreed definition of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Final 2010 ODA figures will be published in the Department for International Development (DFID) publication Statistics on International Development (SID) later this year. Previous copies of this publication are available in the House Library or online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Finance

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is providing funding to the Royal Botanic Gardens' Millennium Seed Bank. [52164]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide funding for the Kew Millennium Seed Bank, which collects and preserves wild plant species.

DFID does support the two crop seed banks of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) through our contribution to the Global Diversity Crop Trust and our core funding to CGIAR research centres. CGIAR seed banks currently store over 600,000 crop varieties.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Water

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department is providing to countries in sub-Saharan Africa to invest in *(a)* safe water and *(b)* sanitation. [52059]

Mr O'Brien: Providing clean water and sanitation was identified as a priority in the recent Bilateral Aid Review. The UK will support programmes in nine sub-Saharan African countries that are not on track to achieve the millennium development goal target on water and sanitation. DFID have allocated an indicative budget of £396 million bilaterally through our country programmes for the next four financial years to increase access to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials from his Department are based in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [51243]

Mr Duncan: There are no Department for International Development (DFID) staff members currently based in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). UK-based staff make occasional visits to TCI to provide advice and assistance when necessary.

DFID is funding a total of seven public finance and governance experts to assist the TCI Government, including the position of Chief Financial Officer.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to require Housing Options to give a copy of its advice to applicants in writing. [51255]

Grant Shapps: Housing options advice is a key part of local authorities' work to prevent homelessness. Housing options services are now standard practice among the great majority of local authorities. Local authorities recorded 165,000 cases in 2009-10 where homelessness was prevented or relieved.

It is accepted good practice that a person seeking assistance should receive a written summary of housing options discussed. However we know housing options advice works best when schemes are developed locally that take account of local needs and local markets, and focus on giving the individual appropriate housing advice. Requiring local authorities to provide advice in writing through legislation would be overly bureaucratic and risk creating a "tick box" exercise that focuses on the process rather than providing a person with high quality advice.

Arson: Death

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fatalities there have been as a result of arson in each of the last five years. [52192]

Robert Neill: The latest annual statistics for fatal casualties in deliberate fires in England are shown in the table.

Fatal casualties in deliberate fires, England

	Number of fatalities
2005-06	91
2006-07	96
2007-08	90
2008-09[1]	66
2009-10[1]	74

[1] Provisional

Source:

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics Databases, DCLG

Audit Commission: Consultants

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on headhunters and recruitment consultants in the last 36 months; and in each such case *(a)* for which employment positions the services were sought, *(b)* which firms were used and *(c)* how much was paid from public funds, including bonus or reward payments for recruiting an individual. [50992]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 26 April 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The information you requested is set out below:

Date	*Employment position*	*Firm*	*Cost (£)*
May 2008	Managing Director Corporate Services	GatenbySanderson Ltd	14,200
June 2008	Managing Director, Communications & Public Reporting	Odgers Ray & Berndtson	30,000
November 2008	Asst Managing Director Corporate Services	GatenbySanderson Ltd	12,000
June 2009	Head of Policy and Assessment (Local Economies & Regeneration)	GatenbySanderson Ltd	16,000
August 2009	Policy Advisor (Local Government Finance)	GatenbySanderson Ltd	14,000
December 2009	Head of Policy and Assessment (Environment and Climate Change)	GatenbySanderson Ltd	20,000
April 2010	Chief Executive	GatenbySanderson Ltd	22,000

Banks: Iceland

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the likely sums to be returned to local authorities from deposits in Icelandic banks which have ceased trading. [52236]

Grant Shapps: The Department has not made any such estimates. The resolution committees for Landsbanki and Glitnir, and the UK administrators for Heritable and KSF, have published information on likely rates of return. Local authorities are in direct contact with these administrators.

Community Development

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the Plan for Growth, March 2011, paragraph 2.17, what plans he has to table amendments to the Localism Bill to make provision to enable businesses to bring forward neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders; [51138]

(2) whether businesses will be required to have a local connection to an area in which they wish to bring forward a neighbourhood plan; [51139]

(3) with reference to the Plan for Growth, March 2011, paragraph 2.17, by what mechanism businesses bringing forward neighbourhood plans will be required to gain the agreement of the local community. [51140]

Greg Clark: As we made clear at the Committee stage of the Localism Bill, we regard the participation of business in neighbourhood planning as desirable, especially in areas—for example, a town with a high street or an industrial district—where local businesses are a significant part of the local community. We are committed to allowing businesses to bring forward proposals for neighbourhood, planning. Businesses will need to work with and gain the agreement of the local community and pass independent examination before neighbourhood plans or orders are formalised.

As undertaken to the Committee, we will bring forward amendments to the Localism Bill to reflect these commitments.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference for the Plan for Growth, March 2011, paragraph 2.15, by what mechanisms he intends to require local authorities seeking to introduce the community infrastructure levy to assess the economic viability of the rates they set; and what criteria will be used to assess economic viability. [51144]

Greg Clark: The community infrastructure levy regulations (SI. No. 948. 2010) require a local authority that is introducing the levy to have regard to the potential effects of proposed charges (taken as a whole) on the economic viability of development across its area. In undertaking their assessment, local authorities are required to have regard to the "Community Infrastructure Levy Guidance: Charge setting and charging schedule procedures" (DCLG, 25 March 2010). Both the regulations and the guidance were issued by the previous Government under powers at Part 11 of the Planning Act 2008. The Government are keeping this guidance under review.

Council Tax

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 10 local authorities had *(a)* the highest and *(b)* the lowest council tax collection rates in England in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of the uncollected council taxes was in each such case. [50996]

Robert Neill: A list of the 10 local authorities in England that collected the highest and the lowest proportion of council tax due in 2009-10, the latest period for which data are available, along with details of the estimated monetary value of the uncollected tax are shown in the following table:

	Estimated net collectable debit in respect of 2009-10 council tax (£000)	*Total receipts of 2009-10 council tax in 2009-10 (£000)*	*Receipts of 2009-10 council tax by 31 March 2010 as a percentage of net collectable debit*	*Amount of 2009-10 council tax not collected by 31 March 2010 (£000)*
Lowest				
Manchester	121,633	110,509	90.9	11,124
Salford	80,582	73,709	91.5	6,873
Lewisham	95,342	87,524	91.8	7,818
Southwark	94,027	86,325	91.8	7,702
Newham	64,939	59,748	92.0	5,191
Haringey	96,374	89,247	92.6	7,127
Hackney	68,370	63,466	92.8	4,904
Stoke-on-Trent UA	75,178	69,838	92.9	5,340
Barking and Dagenham	50,666	47,085	92.9	3,581
Bradford	150,253	140,561	93.6	9,692
Highest				
Ryedale	28,601	28,353	99.1	248
Chiltern	61,169	60,647	99.1	522
Staffordshire Moorlands	44,118	43,754	99.2	364
West Oxfordshire	55,163	54,711	99.2	452
Broadland	60,330	59,851	99.2	479
Wokingham UA	88,967	88,262	99.2	705
South Cambridgeshire	76,971	76,427	99.3	544
North Kesteven	44,446	44,134	99.3	312
Isles of Scilly	1,436	1,426	99.3	10
City of London	5,733	5,701	99.4	32

This information is available in Table 5 of the Statistical Release Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2009-10 that is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates

The in-year collection rate is the amount received by 31 March in respect of that financial year's council tax shown as a percentage of the net collectable debit in respect of that year's council tax i.e. the income authorities would collect if everyone liable had paid. The figures exclude council tax benefit as this is paid directly to the local authority by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Collection of council taxes continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended. This means that the final collection rate achieved is somewhere between the figures shown here and 100%.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [52002]

Robert Neill: No ministerial directions have been issued in Communities and Local Government since the appointment of the Secretary of State.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51415]

Robert Neill: The Department currently has 725 mobile devices on issue to staff and spent £113,000 on mobile telephones and related data services in the financial year 2009-10.

The number of devices has been reduced from 767 phones on issue in August 2010. No new orders for BlackBerrys are being accepted and the number of devices will continue to be managed down.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on *(a)* silver service and *(b)* other waiting services through its integrated facilities management contract with MITIE between the date of initiation of the contract and 5 May 2010. [50669]

Robert Neill: The Department's integrated facilities management contract with MITIE commenced in June 2004. Detailed analysis from 2004 to May 2010 could be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would involve manual checking of historic invoices.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50076]

Robert Neill: Ministers in the Department do make use of bus and London Underground travel but a record is not kept of the journeys made. All travel is undertaken in line with section 10 of the Ministerial Code which provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50165]

Robert Neill: Three of this Department's ministerial team have been provided with Oyster cards and one has been provided with an annual travel card. All travel is undertaken in line with section 10 of the Ministerial Code which provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make and cost-effective travel efficient arrangements.

Departmental Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what items with a value of over £100 have been taken without authorisation from his Department since his appointment; and what steps have been taken to recover such items. [48448]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has had ten lap top computers and one camera, each with a value of over £100, stolen from departmental premises since 6 May 2010.

Each case was investigated by the Department's Departmental Security Unit and the police were notified. Subsequent to the action taken the Department has not experienced a further theft of this nature from its premises since December 2010.

One departmental laptop was stolen from an official's home and reported to local police.

The following table provides a comparison with the two previous financial years:

Item	*Since 6 May*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*
Laptop	11	12	5
Camera	1	1	0
DVD player	0-	1	0
Projector	0	1	0

Departmental Manpower

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51380]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not record vacancy rates. Owing to the recruitment freeze implemented by this administration, the number of vacancies in DCLG has been very low.

The recruitment freeze is being extended into 2011-12, and DCLG is currently in a large-scale process of restructuring that will see around 700 posts go. The working assumption is that there will be no vacancies until October 2012.

There may be some very limited exceptions to this based in specialist areas of the Department. A small number of roles require particular specialist skills which must be recruited from outside the Department. Until the current restructuring process has been completed later this year, the numbers required are not known.

Departmental Video Recordings

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1122W, on departmental video recordings, how many people viewed the August 2008 Hazel Blears video message on YouTube; and for what reasons the expenditure incurred on its production was considered justified. [51938]

Robert Neill: The August 2008 video fronted by Hazel Blears, launching the White Paper "Communities in Control: Real People Real Power" received 3,187 viewings on YouTube. It was also shown at an event launching the White Paper, attended by 200 community organisations.

As outlined in my original answer, the new Government have put tighter controls in place on such external communications and marketing spending.

Development Plans: Learning Disability

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he is taking steps to ensure that local authorities' area development plans recognise the needs and interests of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [51361]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to planning policies which take account of the needs of a diverse population, including people with profound learning disabilities and those who look after them. Planning Policy Statement 1, 'Delivering Sustainable Development', asks local planning authorities to take into account the needs of all the community, including particular requirements relating to disability, when writing local plans. Local plans should promote development which helps to create socially inclusive communities, including suitable mixes of housing, and ensures access to health services, housing and community facilities (both in terms of location and physical access) for all.

Fires: Death

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fatalities there have been as a result of fires in commercial premises in each of the last five years. [52184]

Robert Neill: The latest annual statistics for fatalities in fires in commercial premises in England are shown in the following table.

Fatalities in fires in commercial[1] premises, England

2005-06	9
2006-07	7
2007-08	12
2008-09[2]	1
2009-10[2]	2

[1] Commercial premises are taken to include restaurants, public houses, clubs, bars, warehouses, offices and call centres and premises used for retail, sale and repair of vehicles, transportation, communications, financial and business services and short-term accommodation including hotels.

[2] Provisional.

Source:

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics Databases, DCLG

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fatalities there have been as a result of industrial fires in each of the last five years. [52186]

Robert Neill: The latest annual statistics for fatalities in fires in industrial premises in England are shown in the table.

Fatalities in fires in industrial[1] premises, England

	Number
2005-06	1
2006-07	5
2007-08	0
2008-09[2]	1
2009-10[2]	0

[1] Industrial premises are taken to include industrial processing and manufacturing, public utilities and bulk storage.

[2] Provisional.

Source:

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics Databases, DCLG

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fatalities there have been as a result of fires in domestic properties in each of the last two years. [52500]

Robert Neill: The latest annual statistics for fatal casualties in dwelling and accidental dwelling fires in England are shown in the table.

Fatal casualties in dwelling and accidental dwelling fires, England

	2008-09[1]	*2009-10[1]*
Dwelling	255	248
of which		
accidental	209	210

[1] Provisional

Source:

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics Databases, DCLG

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to Gateshead Council in each of the last five years. [51593]

Robert Neill: The total grant funding allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government to Gateshead council is as follows:

Gateshead

	£000
2005-06	191,052
2006-07	112,997
2007-08	113,589
2008-09	139,308
2009-10	137,470

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of:

formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates)

specific grants inside aggregate external finance (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services) (only includes grants from this Department)

specific grants outside aggregate external finance (only includes grants from this Department)

area-based grant (from 2008-09), and

'other grants' provided by all Government Departments.

These figures are taken from revenue out-turn forms provided by authorities after the end of a financial year.

Figures for formula grant, area-based grant and other grants are aggregated grants for all Government Departments.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and changes to funding methodology.

Government Procurement Card

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, on the Government Procurement Card, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Audit Commission Government Procurement Card transaction data supplied to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood; and if he will publish with the transaction data a description of each item purchased under *(a)* level 3 and *(b)* enhanced transactions. [50876]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 26 April 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission does not receive (a) level 3 or (b) enhanced transaction information from our card provider.

The information showing the GPC spend for 2008/09 and 2009/10 as supplied to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Homeless

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his estimate is of the number and proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women of Irish (i) birth and (ii) descent in (A) London and (B) England who were homeless and rough sleepers in (1) 2010, (2) 2000 and (3) 1990; [52517]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of homeless people from each ethnic background in *(a)* London and *(b)* England in (i) 2010, (ii) 2000 and (iii) 1990. [52518]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly PIE returns. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as being statutory homeless, that is, eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to ensure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected.

The following table gives the total number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty in 2000 and 2010 by ethnicity. The data were not collected in 1990. We cannot distinguish between households that are of Irish birth and those that are of Irish descent. Only data on the major ethnic groups were collected in 2000.

Number of households accepted as being homeless by ethnicity, 2000 and 2010, England and London

	England		*London*	
	2000	*2010*	*2000*	*2010*
White	82,080	28,500	11,390	2,600
White British	[2]—	26,650	[2]—	1,910
White Irish	[2]—	280	[2]—	100
White: any other White background	[2]—	1,580	[2]—	590
Black or Black British	8,990	6,090	7,050	2,560
Black or Black British African	[2]—	3,290	[2]—	1,270
Black or Black British: Caribbean	[2]—	1,760	[2]—	840
Black or Black British: any other Black background	[2]—	1,050	[2]—	440
Asian or Asian British	6,120	2,660	3,090	760
Asian or Asian British: Indian	[2]—	320	[2]—	80
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	[2]—	1,000	[2]—	120
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	[2]—	690	[2]—	320
Asian or Asian British: other Asian background	[2]—	660	[2]—	230
Mixed[1]	[2]—	1,250	[2]—	320
Mixed: White and Black African	[2]—	230	[2]—	60
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	[2]—	630	[2]—	140
Mixed: White and Asian	[2]—	140	[2]—	20
Mixed: any other Mixed background	[2]—	260	[2]—	100
Chinese or other ethnic group[1]	[2]—	1,750	[2]—	680
Chinese	[2]—	280	[2]—	40
Other ethnic group	[2]—	1,460	[2]—	640
Ethnic group not stated	7,280	2,150	1,720	570
Total of all ethnic groups	111,340	42,390	28,240	7,470

[1] In 2000, data collected under 'Other ethnic origin' include both 'Mixed and Chinese' or 'other ethnic group'. England and London figures were 6,870 and 4,970 respectively.
[2] Data not collected.
Source:
Quarterly P1E returns

Data on households in temporary accommodation are not collected for detailed ethnic groups. The only information available is whether the applicant is from a Black or minority ethnic group. At the end of December 2010, the total number of households in temporary accommodation in England and London were 48,010 and 36,020, of which Black or minority ethnic applicants made up 26,530 and 24, 660 respectively. The figures were not collected in 2000 and 1990.

Data on English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996), including breakdowns by ethnicity, are published in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available in the House of Commons Library or via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Rough sleeping figures are not available broken down by ethnicity. Rough sleeping figures are published by the Department on the DCLG website and are given by local authority in the table at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1845849.xls

The Government have introduced a new and more accurate way of evaluating rough sleeping levels. All areas across England now provide counts or robust estimates giving a clear national picture. Latest statistics show 1,768 rough sleepers in England on any one night. These figures are not directly comparable to previously published statistics on rough sleeping.

Homelessness

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless people were recorded as *(a)* residing in bed and breakfast accommodation, *(b)* residing in hostels and *(c)* sleeping rough in each of the (i) last three years and (ii) last three quarters; and if he will estimate the (A) number of and (B) cost of accommodation of such people in each type of accommodation in each local authority in each year to 2014. [50999]

Grant Shapps: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to ensure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected. Data is published in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available in the House of Commons Library or via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Figures showing the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter in bed and breakfast style accommodation and hostels are provided in Table 6 of the accompanying tables:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1861737.xls

These figures include households placed in temporary accommodation by their local authority, usually whilst the authority is discharging a main homelessness duty to secure suitable accommodation until a settled home becomes available for the applicant household. They do not include households who are not in priority need.

The department also holds information on Supporting People Client Records. These show the number of clients whose predominant needs relate to homelessness who enter direct access hostels funded by Supporting People. These statistics measure the flow of clients into hostels over the year rather than the total number of people residing in hostels. The data are available from the University of St Andrews:

https://www.spclientrecord.org.uk

The Government have introduced a new more accurate way of evaluating rough sleeping levels. Previously only local authorities where there was a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to provide a count. All areas across England now provide counts or robust estimates giving a clear national picture. Latest statistics show 1,768 rough sleepers in England on any one night. The Government have also set up a cross-departmental ministerial working group on homelessness to address the complex causes and improve support for homeless people.

Rough sleeping figures are published by the Department on the DCLG website and are given by local authority in the table at the following link. These figures are not directly comparable to previously published statistics on rough sleeping.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1845849.xls

The Department has not made any estimates of the future numbers of households in each type of accommodation and the associated costs.

Housing

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference for the Plan for Growth, March 2011, paragraph 2.22, when he expects to publish the consultation on proposals to make it easier to convert commercial properties to residential use; and when he expects the consultation to close. [51143]

Greg Clark: The consultation paper, 'Relaxation of planning rules for change of use from commercial to residential', was published on 8 April 2011 and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/relaxationchangeconsultation

The deadline for comments on the proposals is 30 June 2011.

Housing Associations: Freedom of Information

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to the merits of including housing associations within the categories of body subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [52291]

Grant Shapps: The Government are actively considering all options for increasing openness, transparency and accountability in the housing association sector. We have already taken steps to ensure that private bodies (including housing associations) that sign a contract for allocations of more than £3 million from the Affordable Homes programme must publish quarterly all expenditure in excess of £500 relating to delivery of schemes which form part of the contract.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward amendments to the Localism Bill to provide that local authority housing revenue accounts are ring-fenced following the introduction of self-financing arrangements. [50817]

Andrew Stunell: There is no need for such an amendment as the existing Housing Revenue Account ring-fence will continue after the introduction of self-financing. Abolition of the subsidy system does not end the requirement for local authorities to maintain a statutory, ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account. They will still be required to account to their tenants for income and expenditure on council housing separately from other functions and services. This ensures that council taxpayers do not subsidise services specifically for the benefit of tenants and that rent is not used to subsidise functions which are for the benefit of the wider local community.

'Implementing self-financing for council housing', which we published on 1 February, advised that we do not. intend to issue new guidance on its operation.

Housing: Construction

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will take steps to encourage those on council housing waiting lists to participate in the Community Right to Build programme; [52304]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to link apprenticeship schemes to the Community Right to Build programme. [52305]

Grant Shapps: The Community Right to Build proposals contained in the Localism Bill, currently before Parliament, would provide an opportunity for communities to shape the area where they live by bringing forward community-led development proposals without the need for a separate planning application. Subject to parliamentary approval of the proposals, we will promote the benefits of the Community Right to Build to all who may wish to take advantage of them,

Community Right to Build proposals will be developed by communities themselves. Communities may wish to bring forward development proposals in partnership with housing associations or developers or as self-build or co-housing schemes. It will be for communities themselves, in agreement with any development partners, to decide if they wish to incorporate any apprenticeship schemes within their proposals.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with banks on the level of loan applications approved for self-build homes. [52365]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to increasing housing supply and supporting homeownership. Self-builders make an important contribution to housing supply and the Government are already reforming and simplifying the planning system and reducing the burden of regulation to support all house builders.

I have also set up a Government-Industry Working Group to examine the specific barriers that self-builders face. One of these groups, led by finance industry experts, is having continued detailed discussions with the lending community. They will report their recommendations back to me this summer.

Housing: Crawley

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the potential benefits to the Crawley borough council area of the New Homes Bonus. [51617]

Grant Shapps: Commencing in April 2011, the New Homes Bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised on the net increase in effective housing stock for six years.

Final allocations for 2011-12 were announced on 4 April and rewards housing delivered between October 2009 and October 2010. Crawley borough council has received £477,309 for 2011-12. Over the six years this amounts to £2,863,856 based on year one delivery. The future rewards for Crawley will depend on the amount of net additional housing delivered in the coming years.

Full details of the calculation for the bonus can be found in the final scheme design document, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/finalschemedesign

Housing: Hastings

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the potential benefits to Hastings of the New Homes Bonus. [51943]

Grant Shapps: Commencing in April 2011, the New Homes Bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised on the net increase in effective housing stock for six years.

Final allocations for 2011-12 were announced on 4 April and rewards housing delivered between October 2009 and October 2010. Hastings borough council has received £194,710 for 2011-12. Over the six years this amounts to £1,168,263 based on year one delivery. The future rewards for Hastings will depend on the amount of net additional housing delivered in the coming years.

Full details of the calculation for the bonus can be found in the final scheme design document, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/finalschemedesign

Learning Disability: Swimming

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association and *(b)* other organisations on the dissemination of good practice in the provision of access to public swimming pools for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [51273]

Hugh Robertson: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not discussed this with the Local Government Association. Sport England, however, has developed Design Guidance Notes which aim to promote a greater general understanding of overall design concepts, an appreciation of technical issues and the critical factors that need to be considered in developing a sports facility.

The 'Accessible Sports Facilities' guidance note provides local authorities and other facility providers with advice about considering the needs of people with sensory, cognitive and mobility impairments, including wheelchair users.

Sport England has also developed guidance on swimming pools, which outlines the basic principles and concepts of good swimming pool design.

Legal Costs

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse has been of expenditure by his Department on external legal costs in relation to judicial reviews and associated appeals against his Department in relation to unitary legal restructuring since 2008-09; and if he will list each of the legal titles in each such case. [50994]

Robert Neill: One legal challenge has been brought since 2008-09 against the Secretary of State in relation to unitary local government restructuring—"The Queen on the application of Norfolk County Council and Devon County Council versus Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and (1) Exeter City Council (2) Norwich City Council (Interested Parties)". The costs incurred by the Department for this case are £205,500 (this includes £121,000 that the Department had to pay for the claimants' costs).

Legal Opinion

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 638W, on legal opinion, if he will place in the Library a copy of the data for expenditure on legal fees in 2008-09, based on the purchasing records and purchasing ledger data held by his Department for each supplier. [50805]

Robert Neill: The data for expenditure on legal fees in 2008-09, based on the purchasing records, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Local Enterprise Zones: Finance

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the *(a)* level and *(b)* type of financial support which will be offered to the second tranche of local enterprise zones will be the same as that offered to those in the first round of bids. [51146]

Robert Neill: Government have put forward a range of measures to develop Enterprise Zones and make them attractive places to do business. These include;

A business rate discount of 100%, or up to £275,000 over a five year period;

All business rate growth generated by the zone for a period of at least 25 years will be keep by that area.

In addition, Government will enable the use of Tax Increment Finance, borrowing against future business rates, to support the long-term viability of the area.

All of these measures will be available to both the first and second tranche of Enterprise Zones.

Local Government Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which tax increment financing projects are being monitored by his Department. [51502]

Robert Neill: There are currently no tax increment financing projects in England. As part of the Local Government Resource Review we are considering how to deliver tax increment financing proposals against a context of greater retention of business rate revenues.

Local Government Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he plans to *(a)* issue guidance and *(b)* collect examples of best practice to assist community groups in the management of previously council-run facilities; [51752]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to facilitate the takeover of halls which were previously administered by local councils by local community groups. [51803]

Greg Clark: The Government are funding the Asset Transfer Unit to promote best practice across England and provide advice and expertise on matters relating to asset transfer to community ownership and management.

Local Government: Employment

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the letter from the Minister of State for Housing and Local Government of 16 December 2010 to the Local Government Association on senior pay, what guidance his Department has given to local authorities on the employment of senior staff who are receiving a pension from the Local Government Pension scheme. [50804]

Robert Neill: The Government's role in specific local government pay and workforce issues is extremely limited as they are, rightly, a matter for the individual councils as the employer. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has, however, called on councils to show leadership in pay restraint and for chief executives earning the most senior salaries to take a voluntary pay cut. In addition, he has set out his intention to use guidance under provisions in the Localism Bill to set out the Government's view that decisions about salaries over £100,000 should always be subject to a vote of Full Council.

A member entitled to a pension under the Local Government Pension scheme (LGPS) must inform a new scheme employer and their LGPS administering authority about that new employment, as the LGPS provides administering authorities with discretionary powers to reduce or extinguish the amount of pension payable to a scheme member who has entered new employment with a scheme employer. No specific guidance is issued on abatement as each LGPS administering authority is required to formulate and keep under review its policy concerning abatement. In doing so, an administering authority must be aware of the extent to which any policy not to apply to abatement could lead to a serious loss of confidence in the public service.

Local Government: Pay

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements his Department has put in place with local authorities for the payment of £250 salary increases to lower-paid workers. [52163]

Robert Neill: Pay and conditions for local government employees are matters for negotiation between trades unions and local government employers. Central Government has no role in those negotiations.

Motor Sports

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on amending the provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to allow local authorities to determine whether to host motor sports events on public roads in a local authority area. [50061]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Department for Transport to discuss a range of matters.

Non-Domestic Rates

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 10 local authorities had *(a)* the highest and *(b)* the lowest business rate collection rates in England in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of the uncollected business rates was in each such case. [50997]

Robert Neill: A list of the 10 local authorities in England that collected the highest and the lowest proportion of non-domestic rates due in 2009-10, the latest period for which data are available, along with details of the estimated monetary value of the uncollected tax are shown in the following table:

	Estimated net collectable debit in respect of 2009-10 non-domestic rates (£000)	*Total receipts of 2009-10 non-domestic rates in 2009-10 (£000)*	*Receipts of 2009-10 non-domestic rates by 31 March 2010 as a percentage of net collectable debit (percentage)*	*Account of 2009-10 non-domestic rates not collected by 31 March 2010 (£000)*
Lowest				
Dover	32,776	29,342	89.5	3,434
Medway Towns UA	71,157	64,907	91.2	6,250
North East Lincolnshire UA	62,509	57,340	91.7	5,169
Isles of Scilly	1,334	1,236	92.7	98
Hyndburn	19,551	18,206	93.1	1,345
Hammersmith and Fulham	157,130	148,231	94.3	8,899
Surrey Heath	38,323	36,344	94.8	1,979
Blackpool UA	43,454	41,297	95.0	2,157
West Somerset	8,707	8,277	95.1	430
Christchurch	17,002	16,186	95.2	816
Highest				
Corby	31,156	30,992	99.5	164
Daventry	39,359	39,152	99.5	207
Stroud	21,983	21,882	99.5	101
Mid Devon	11,792	11,743	99.6	49
Reigate and Banstead	51,106	50,927	99.6	179
Canterbury	45,362	45,221	99.7	141
West Lindsey	14,555	14,510	99.7	45
Aylesbury Vale	44,141	44,012	99.7	129
North Kesteven	20,039	19,999	99.8	40
East Staffordshire	49,454	49,357	99.8	97

This information is available in Table 5 of the Statistical Release Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2009-10 that is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates/

The in-year collection rate is the amount received by 31 March in respect of that financial year's non-domestic rates shown as a percentage of the net collectable debit in respect of that year's non-domestic rates i.e. the income authorities would collect if everyone liable had paid.

Collection of non-domestic rates continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended. This means that the final collection rate achieved is somewhere between the figures shown here and 100%.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the potential effects on publicans of the charging of business rates on empty properties. [50972]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East (Gregg McClymont) on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 543W, on public houses, and my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W, on non-domestic rates.

Since the answer, the Government have extended the doubling of small business rate relief from one year to two years, until September 2012, which will benefit many pubs.

Planning

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 68WS, on planning for growth, what guidance his Department has issued to local planning authorities on the review of section 106 agreements. [52103]

Greg Clark: The Government issued a chief planning officers' letter on 31 March 2011 to all English local planning authorities on the steps they should take to ensure that planning supports sustainable economic growth. Annex B of the letter includes guidance on reviewing existing section 106 agreements.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 2.27 of The Plan for Growth, March 2011, what measures he plans to introduce to make the planning system simpler and more efficient. [52121]

Robert Neill: The Government will consult in the autumn on measures to simplify and speed-up planning procedures, which will include steps to streamline the information required to support planning applications.

Private Rented Housing

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households *(a)* in each local housing authority area and *(b)* nationally (i) were offered a qualifying offer of suitable private rented housing as a discharge of homeless duty and (ii) refused such an offer in 2010. [51661]

Grant Shapps: Information is not collected by Government on the number of households that were offered a qualifying offer of suitable private rented housing as a discharge of a main homelessness duty or who refused such an offer.

Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly PIE returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households that accepted a qualifying offer of an assured shorthold tenancy to discharge a main homelessness duty. In 2010 the duty was ended in this way for 3,330 households.

Data are also collected on local authorities' actions to prevent or relieve homelessness outside of the statutory framework and is published by the Department at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention200910

In 2009-10, 50,720 households in England were assisted into private rented accommodation by local authorities and partner organisations outside of the statutory framework.

Public Opinion

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on opinion research and opinion polling companies in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and how much and for what purpose in each such case. [50995]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 603W.

Information on the Department's associated public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Regional Planning and Development

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he is taking steps to ensure the production of research and data collection on housing and energy matters for local authorities following the abolition of regional spatial strategies; [50366]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to ensure that data collection undertaken for the preparation of regional spatial strategies is retained in the new planning framework. [50374]

Greg Clark: The data held by the former local authority leaders' boards have been archived on websites operated jointly by the local authorities in each region and therefore remain readily accessible by those local authorities. We have also ensured that the data remain accessible to the public. For some regions, the data are also being held by the British Library's web archive.

Local plans and joint plans should continue to be based on sound evidence. Local authorities should continue to collect and use reliable information to justify their policies for development and growth, including housing and energy, as they always have done. Planning Policy Statements remain in place, for example PPS 3 provides guidance on how to assess housing need.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of any effects on the production of local development frameworks of the abolition of regional spatial strategies. [50394]

Greg Clark: The number of local plans coming forward has increased since we announced that we will abolish regional strategies.

31 core strategies were submitted for approval between May and December 2010, compared to 14 submitted in the same period the previous year.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismregionalplanning

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to aid local authorities in deciding the location of sites suitable for sub-regionally significant hazardous waste facilities and other waste management infrastructure which was formerly provided by regional spatial strategies. [50573]

Robert Neill: Regional strategies are part of the statutory 'development plan'. When preparing waste plans, local planning authorities should have regard to national policy, including Planning Policy Statement 10: 'Sustainable Waste Management'. Notwithstanding, the Government's abolition of regional strategies via the Localism Bill is a material consideration in planning decisions.

Research, Information and Communications Unit: Operating Costs

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the operating costs of the Research, Information and Communications Unit in the Home Office *(a)* was met by his Department in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 and *(b)* will he so meet in 2010-11. [47324]

Robert Neill: I refer the right hon. Lady to the answer given by the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert) on 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 458W.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take in the next two years to increase the flexibility of access to shared ownership schemes for first-time buyers; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [51955]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to supporting those who aspire to own their own home. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Battersea (Jane Ellison) on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 738. I have received three representations on this issue recently.

All households with an income of less than £60,000 who cannot afford to buy without assistance are eligible to apply for Government-funded affordable home ownership schemes. The only nationally set priorities are social tenants and serving armed forces personnel. Local authorities, in conjunction with their partners, have the flexibility to set any other priorities within their areas in line with local requirements.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many one bedroom properties were let to existing social tenants *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in 2009-10. [52461]

Grant Shapps: Information on the number of households receiving social housing is collected through the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). Information on number of bedrooms is only collected for general needs lettings.

The following table gives the number of one-bedroom general needs lettings made to existing social tenants nationally and in each statistical region in 2009-10:

	Number
North East	2,700
North West	5,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,400
East Midlands	2,000
West Midlands	3,800
East of England	2,700
London	5,800
South East	3,600
South West	2,300
England	31,300

Source:
CORE lettings returns, 2009-10

Social Rented Housing: Cheshire

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were available for *(a)* rent and *(b)* shared ownership sale by housing associations and housing trusts in (i) City of Chester constituency and (ii) Cheshire West and Chester at the most recent date for which figures are available. [50917]

Andrew Stunell: Figures are not available at constituency level. They are collected at local authority district level for housing associations and housing trusts who are Registered Providers. The Regulatory and Statistical Return managed by the Tenant Services Authority asks Registered Providers to report data on their stock.

The Regulatory and Statistical Return showed that as at 31 March 2010 registered housing associations and housing trusts owned approximately 16,006 homes in Cheshire West and Chester for social rent. Of these, 4,410 units comprised housing specifically intended for older people, 424 comprised other supported housing and the remaining 11,172 were intended for households with general needs. Of these 'general needs' homes, 114 were vacant, of which 64 were available for letting. Information on vacancy in the stock of supported housing and housing for older people is not collected by local authority or constituency area. During the year to 31 March 2010 there were 52 low cost home ownership sales made by Registered Providers of their stock in Cheshire West and Chester.

Additionally, properties are made available for shared ownership by other providers, including through Section 106 agreements.

Additional affordable homes since April 2010 will count towards the Affordable Homes element of the New Homes Bonus, which provides a powerful incentive for local authorities to increase housing supply. Cheshire West and Chester will receive a £350 premium per affordable home for the six years on top of the main part of the Bonus, which, in total, is £326,383 for year one

Social Services: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department is taking steps to ensure that funding it has provided to local authorities for adult social care is used for that purpose. [51148]

Robert Neill: The Department provides unhypothecated formula grant to local authorities, which they use to meet locally identified priorities including adult social care.

In addition, funding, totalling £800 million in 2011-12 and rising to £1 billion by 2014-15, has been allocated within the NHS to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. The new NHS Operating Framework sets out specific primary care trust allocations that they will transfer to councils for spending on social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. Primary care trusts and local authorities will need to work together to agree jointly appropriate areas for social care investment, with a shared analysis of need and a common agreement on the outcomes to be met.

We have no plans to nationally monitor local authorities on how they spend their allocations. Councils are most effective when they have freedom to innovate and respond to what local people want, and this Government are committed to reducing the burdens on local authorities.

The Department does collect revenue expenditure data from all local authorities in England, including information on social care services—available at

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/revenueexpenditure/

Transparency should underpin everything that councils do. All council business should be open to public scrutiny—whether it is expenditure, senior pay, council expenses or voluntary sector funding. The Government are consulting on a code of recommended practice to enshrine the principles of data transparency and to set out the minimum data that should be published.

Community Sports Clubs

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on encouraging greater use of school facilities by community sports clubs. [51219]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government has had no discussions with the Department for Education on encouraging the greater use of school facilities by community sports clubs, but we agree that greater use of school facilities by community sport clubs, can promote the benefits of sports, as well as creating a legacy for the school and the community at large by strengthening school and local partnership. This kind of partnership will also ensure the school serves the community, with all sections of the community benefiting from increased usage.

The extra revenue for the school can be used to provide extra sports curriculum activities for pupils, as well as helping to reduce overall operating costs where clubs take on the facility management role out of school hours.

Sustainable Development

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the introduction of a presumption of sustainable development in the local planning system with his Department's policies on localism. [50320]

Robert Neill: The presumption in favour of sustainable development will be a central feature of the National Planning Policy Framework, which will allow it to be integrated fully with the Government's wider priorities for the planning system. We will consult on a draft of the National Planning Policy Framework in the summer. Our aim will be to ensure that the presumption supports localism, in particular by bolstering the role of up-to-date plans in planning decisions.

The presumption is part of a wider package of reforms to localise the planning system including the abolition of regional strategies, and, introducing new neighbourhood plans.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Plan for Growth, March 2011, paragraphs 2.11 and 2.12, what definition of sustainable developments his Department uses. [51132]

Greg Clark: Policy on the sustainable development principles that should underpin planning decisions is set out in Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development.

Tenant Services Authority: Furniture

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Tenant Services Authority has spent on office chairs since its creation; and what the *(a)* make and model and *(b)* cost was of each type of chair. [51974]

Andrew Stunell: Since its inception in 2008, the Tenant Services Authority has been using the chairs of its predecessor the Housing Corporation.

However, for those staff with an identified need following a display screen equipment assessment, the authority has spent a total of £4,652.84 on ergonomic chairs. The chairs were purchased from DS Ergonomics at an average cost of £465 per chair.

The chairs have been provided to enable the Tenant Services Authority to meet the minimum requirements set out in the schedule to the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992 and relevant standards.

Translation Services

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 956W, on translation services, how much the Audit Commission has spent on translation and interpretation costs for *(a)* Lithuanian, *(b)* Mandarin, *(c)* Polish, *(d)* Spanish, *(e)* Sora, *(f)* Farsi and *(g)* Albanian in each of the last three years; and what the title is of each document translated. [50875]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 26 April 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

I have set out below the costs and titles of each document translated in each of the last three years, for the six languages you highlighted in your question.

(a) Lithuanian £171.56

Slides for a presentation to a conference of local government auditors in Lithuania, at which we were invited to speak. All travel expenses and accommodation were paid directly by the conference organisers.

(b) Mandarin £1276.38

Place Survey Project—the government stipulated the requirements of the survey should be available in the most frequently spoken non-English languages. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) wanted the translations to be provided centrally to avoid costs being passed on to individual councils. All costs were recovered from specific funding that DCLG gave the Commission to carry out the Place Survey on its behalf.

(c) Polish £84.00

(d) Spanish £76.60

Notting Hill Housing Trust—Letter to residents

(e) Sora £141.61

Hyde Housing Association—Letter to residents

(f) Farsi £110.46

Stadium Housing Association—Letter to residents

(g) Albanian £94.68

Stadium Housing Association—Letter to residents

Voluntary Organisations: Rights of Way

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has assessed the merits of taking steps to encourage local authorities to allow voluntary organisations to clear rights of way. [51221]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government has made no formal assessment of the merits of encouraging local authorities to allow voluntary organisations to clear rights of way, but we are supportive of the right which provides local people the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment with the associated health and community benefits that volunteering in the open air brings. Many local authorities already work with volunteers in green space activities such as clearing rights of way or maintaining local parks or green space.

CABINET OFFICE

Census

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable the Office for National Statistics has set for the *(a)* processing and *(b)* publication of information and data from the 2011 Census. [52205]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what timetable the Office for National Statistics has set for the (a) processing and (b) publication of information and data from the 2011 Census. (52205).

(a) Data from returned questionnaires will be captured and coded between March 2011 and January 2012.

Statistical results will then be produced and quality assured by July 2012.

(b) The first statistics—population counts for each local authority broken down by age and sex—will be published in July 2012. More detailed statistics about the population will then be published over the following year. A timetable for publication of these more detailed statistics will be produced in summer 2011.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether he has carried out an impact assessment of the proposed changes to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme; and what estimate he has made of the effect on the opt-out rate from the scheme of implementing such changes; [52246]

(2) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the changes to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are sustainable and progressive; [52268]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed changes to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme on part-time members of staff who are members of the scheme. [52269]

Mr Maude: At the Spending Review the Government announced changes to the level of employee contribution rates which would lead to total savings of £2.8 billion a year by 2014-15, to be phased in from April 2012. Discussions about how this will be implemented are ongoing with unions in the context of wider ranging pension discussions. The Government will put forward proposals in the summer, and will then begin formal consultation on the necessary changes to scheme regulations. Assessing the likely impact of the changes to part-time staff will be part of this consultation process.

The Government are committed to protecting low earners and ensuring changes are both sustainable and progressive.

The Treasury published an estimate of likely opt-out rates at the Spending Review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

This estimate has been scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, and will be reviewed when the Government puts forward final designs.

Civil Service: Pensions

Michael Fallon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average pension was of civil servants in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [51310]

Mr Hurd: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deaths: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths in Milton Keynes were *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug-related in each of the last five years; and how many of those who died were aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years of age. [51930]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths in Milton Keynes were (a) alcohol and (b) drug-related in each of the last five years; and how many of those who died were aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years of age. (51930)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where the underlying cause was (a) alcohol-related (Table 1) and (b) drug poisoning (Table 2), for persons aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40 and (iv) over 40 years, in Milton Keynes unitary authority, for the years 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Figures for alcohol-related deaths in the UK, England and Wales, and government office regions are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14496

Figures for deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales by sex, age, cause and substance involved are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11695

Table 1: Number of deaths where the underlying cause of death was alcohol-related, Milton Keynes unitary authority, 2005 to 2009[1,2,3]

					Persons
Age group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 18	0	0	0	0	0
18 to 24	1	0	0	0	0
25 to 40	2	3	2	0	3
Over 40	19	19	22	16	16
Total	22	22	24	16	19

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific conditions which are included in the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in Box 1 below.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths

Cause of death	*ICD-10 codes*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	142.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Table 2: Number of deaths where drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death, Milton Keynes unitary authority, 2005 to 2009[1,2,3]

					Persons
Age group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 18	0	0	1	0	0
18 to 24	2	0	0	1	0
25 to 40	7	2	3	4	3
Over 40	6	3	7	6	4
Total	15	5	11	11	7

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The ICD-10 codes for drug poisoning are shown in Box 2 below.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 2: ICD-10 codes for deaths related to drug poisoning

Cause of death	*ICD-10 codes*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officers of his Department since his appointment. [52003]

Mr Maude: I have not issued any ministerial directions to the accounting officer since my appointment.

Departmental Cleaning Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make it his policy to require all cleaning contracts held with *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* 10 Downing street to stipulate that the cleaning products used should be EU Ecolabel products accredited by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and if he will make a statement. [52373]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office's Total Facilities Management contract for its central London estate is with EcovertFM. While the contract does not stipulate the use of EU Ecolabel products, wherever possible EcovertFM use environmentally friendly products.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50690]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not signed contracts with Lockheed Martin in any of the last 10 financial years for which records are available.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) contracted Lockheed Martin on the 2011 Census in England and Wales, for which ONS carried out a fully compliant procurement in accordance with the requirements of European law and the European Union Procurement Directives, which have been incorporated into English law. They were awarded the contract as it offered the best value for money. Cabinet Office ministers approved the contract on 21 August 2008 as its value was above the amount accounting officers could authorise.

The information requested for other associated public bodies is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental ICT

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether computer systems used by staff in his Department working for *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* members of the Cabinet were compromised on any occasion in February 2011. [50938]

Mr Maude: No computer systems used by staff in the Cabinet Office working for *(a)* The Prime Minister and *(b)* members of the Cabinet were compromised on any occasions in February 2011.

Departmental Manpower

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people working in *(a)* 10 Downing street and *(b)* his Department are not employed by the civil service. [47262]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. As well as civil servants, the Metropolitan police, facilities management providers, and other contractors and organisations provide services on the Cabinet Office estate. The number of people working on the Cabinet Office estate who are not employed by the civil service changes on a weekly basis. Providing such information would be at disproportionate cost.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information he holds on the number of employees of each Government Department and their agencies; and if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on the number of such employees. [50227]

Mr Maude: Information on the number of employees in Government Departments and their agencies is published quarterly by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of their Quarterly Public Sector Employment Statistics (QPSES). Further information can be found on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13615

The ONS Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES) gives more detail on the size and composition of the civil service. Further information can be found on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from the abolition of eight public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility. [48138]

Mr Maude: On 16 March 2011 I issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate net overall administrative savings from reform of Cabinet Office departmental public bodies to be £9.71 million over the spending review period.

Departmental Public Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [50074]

(2) how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50164]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office Ministers regularly travel on public transport. The Cabinet Office has not issued Oyster or travel cards to its Ministers.

Departmental Renewable Energy

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has plans for the supply of energy from *(a)* wind, *(b)* solar, *(c)* biofuels and *(d)* other renewable sources to the Government offices and residential accommodation in Downing street. [51704]

Mr Maude: The Government offices and residential accommodation in Downing street are wholly supplied with electricity from renewable sources.

Departmental Standards

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what definition of open standards in information technology his Department uses; and if he will make a statement. [50706]

Mr Maude: Government currently define open standards, in the procurement of Government ICT systems, as standards which:

> result from and are maintained through an open, independent process;
>
> are approved by a recognised specification or standardisation organisation, for example W3C or ISO or equivalent. (NB. The specification/standardisation must be compliant with regulation 9 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. This regulation makes it clear that technical specifications/standards cannot simply be national standards but must also include/recognise European standards);
>
> are thoroughly documented and publicly available at zero or low cost;
>
> have intellectual property made irrevocably available on a royalty free basis; and
>
> as a whole can be implemented and shared under different development approaches and on a number of platforms.

This definition is included, in "Procurement Policy Note—Use of Open Standards when specifying ICT requirements", published by Cabinet Office on 31 January 2011. The definition is currently undergoing informal consultation as part of the "UK Government Open Standards Survey" and will be reviewed when this comes to an end on 20 May.

Efficiency and Reform Group

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff are employed in his Department's Efficiency and Reform Group. [46380]

Mr Maude: 598.27 staff (full-time equivalent (FTE)) were employed in the Efficiency and Reform Group on 30 June 2010. This figure had fallen to 528.24 FTE on 28 February, the latest date for which figures are available. Following the Cabinet Office Voluntary Departure Programme, the Efficiency and Reform Group will be resourced from 2011-12 through a flexible resource pool of 400 staff. Additionally an estimated 75 staff will be employed on a short-term basis on one-off projects in 2011-12.

The Efficiency and Resource Group also has responsibility for the delivery functions of Buying Solutions, the Central Office of Information, the National School for Government, DirectGov and My Civil Service Pensions.

New Businesses: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many business start-ups in Gateshead constituency there *(a)* were in each year between June 2005 and May 2010 and *(b)* have been since May 2010. [51597]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many business start-ups there were in Gateshead constituency (a) in each year between June 2005 and May 2010 and (b) since May 2010. [51597]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise births from 2005 to 2009 for the ward areas that cover the new constituency of Gateshead. Information relating to 2010 will be available following release of the latest Business Demography publication, currently scheduled for December 2011.

Table showing Enterprises births in ward areas that cover the new constituency of Gateshead 2005 to 2009

	Births
2005	305
2006	275
2007	350
2008	290
2009	285

Employee Mutuals

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public bodies have expressed an interest in becoming employee mutuals to date. [35466]

Mr Maude: As my hon. Friend knows, the Government are committed to providing more opportunities for the transfer of responsibility to civil society and the voluntary sector. As part of this, we are introducing new 'Rights to Provide' for public sector workers to form employee-led organisations and take over the services they deliver:

> Local authority employees will be able to use the Right to Challenge to trigger a procurement process for services, in which they can compete alongside others.
>
> Central Government Departments will develop bespoke Rights to Provide for their employees
>
> Employees across the public sector will exercise Rights to Provide developed on a service-specific basis. The Department of Health has already announced a new Right to Provide in NHS and care services where clinically appropriate.

Numerous employees have already expressed an interest in creating and developing new mutuals. There are now 21 Mutual Pathfinders across a wide range of public services—all forming new mutual organisations, with the support of *pro bono* mentoring from experts in employee ownership and business management. This is in addition to more than £900 million of NHS spending that will go to social enterprises founded under DH's Right to Request initiative.

Co-Operatives UK, the Employee Ownership Association and Local Partnerships have collaborated to establish the Mutuals Information Service, providing telephone advice and guidance to employees considering mutualisation. The service has taken hundreds of calls since its launch in November; the Cabinet Office is working closely with Central Government groups seeking to mutualise through its recently-announced Enterprise Incubator Unit. The formation of MyCSP as a Mutual Joint Venture has already been announced, and more bodies going down this route will be announced in due course.

Public Sector: Absenteeism

Pamela Nash: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what targets he has set for the reduction of rates of absence in the public sector. [50937]

Mr Maude: I have not set any targets for the reduction of rates of absence in the public sector. Cabinet Office hosts a regular forum for employers which span the civil service and the wider public, private and voluntary sectors. This forum tackles work force issues and shares best practice on effective ways to reduce sickness absence.

Within the civil service a series of actions are under way to further reduce sickness absence including guidance and support for departmental boards. The Cabinet Office is also reviewing sick pay arrangements across the civil service.

Public Sector: Industrial Disputes

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with which Government departments staff of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat have met to discuss contingency plans to operate services in the event of industrial action by public sector workers since May 2010. [51941]

Mr Maude: The Civil Contingencies Secretariat routinely works with a wide range of departments to ensure robust arrangements are in place to respond to the full range of potentially disruptive challenges to essential services including, for example, staff shortages as a result of sickness, industrial action, or transport disruption. These arrangements equally support essential services' continuity against the full range of risks in the National Risk Assessment.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat are working on contingency plans to operate services in the event of industrial action by public sector workers; and how many such staff receive salaries of over *(a)* £20,000, (b) £50,000, *(c)* £80,000, *(d)* £100,000, *(e)* £130,000, *(f)* £150,000 and *(g)* £200,000. [51949]

Mr Maude: A primary task for the Civil Contingencies Secretariat is to work closely with Departments to ensure that they have robust plans in place to minimise the risk of disruption to essential services, in particular through the development of generic capabilities and effective business continuity arrangements. These are designed to support essential services' continuity against the full range of risks in the National Risk Assessment, for example, staff shortages due to illness or industrial action. No-one in the secretariat earns more than £100,000, and only one earns over £80,000.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group were (i) unemployed and (ii) in receipt of (A) incapacity benefit and (B) employment support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [45403]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is set out in the following tables:

(i) Unemployment levels shown as a proportion of the population, for the three months ending December 2010, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Aged							
	16+	*16-64*	*16-17*	*18-24*	*25-34*	*35-49*	*50-64*	*65 and over*
People								
Percentage of population	5.0	6.2	14.0	12.9	6.3	4.7	3.2	0.2
Men								
Percentage of population	6.0	7.3	14.4	15.1	7.2	5.4	4.4	0.4
Women								
Percentage of population	4.0	5.1	13.5	10.7	5.4	4.2	2.1	0.1

Notes:

1. Percentages are shown to one decimal place.

2. Unemployment proportions are based on the number of people unemployed in the age group divided by the population of the relevant age group.

3. The estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

(ii) Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants shown as a proportion of the population, August 2010, Great Britain

	Aged					
	16-17	*18-24*	*25-34*	*35-49*	*50-64*	*65 and over*
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance						
Female	[1]—	1.3	2.7	5.2	7.1	0.5
Male	[1]—	1.5	3.4	6.1	11.3	0.2
Employment and Support Allowance						
Female	0.3	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.2	[1]—
Male	0.3	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.9	[1]—

[1] Nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Percentages are shown to one decimal place.

2. Proportions are calculated using Mid 2009 Population, estimates.

3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Third Sector

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the *(a)* initial start-up and *(b)* ongoing costs of each of the Big Society vanguard areas. [46542]

Greg Clark: I have been asked to reply.

It is estimated that approximately £100,000 per vanguard will be spent to cover the costs of developing and delivering their priorities.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has any plans to monitor changes in levels of spending on the voluntary sector by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* each Government department. [48465]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office is working closely with partners in the voluntary sector and across all levels of Government to understand spending decisions and support the sector through this transitional period.

At a central Government level, officials are currently looking at the best way for departments to regularly report publicly on spending, both in terms of baseline levels and how these levels change through the spending period.

Spending decisions at a local government level are a matter for local authorities. However, at the start of February, the Minister for decentralisation the Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) wrote to local authorities to gain a better understanding as to how they are strengthening their ties with the voluntary and community sector. Ministers are paying close attention to what local authorities, individuals and community groups have been telling us, and we are considering how best to respond, building on the measures we have already announced to make it easier to build stronger ties with these groups, such as the Community Right to Challenge.

Unemployment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which ward in each parliamentary constituency had the highest level of unemployment in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* the most recent month for which figures are available; and what the level of unemployment was in each case. [52327]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking which ward in each parliamentary constituency had the highest level of unemployment in (a) June 2010 and (b) the most recent month for which figures are available; and what the level of unemployment was in each case. (052327)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of unemployment for the requested geography.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Unemployment: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of workless households in Milton Keynes. [51909]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the recent estimate is for the number of workless households in Milton Keynes (51909).

The most recent estimate of the number of workless households by local area come from the Annual Population Survey (APS), and covers the period January-December 2009. Estimates for the economic activity status of households are only for households containing at least one person aged 16 to 64. A workless household is a household where no individuals aged 16 and over are in employment.

The number of workless households in Milton Keynes in 2009 is estimated to be 12,000. Data on workless households by local area are available on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/worklesshouseholdarea.xls

Estimates covering other annual periods (January-December) between 2004 and 2008 are also available via this link.

Voluntary Organisations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish the targets to be used to measure progress of the Government's Big Society initiative. [39006]

Mr Hurd: The Big Society is about building stronger communities, strengthening the links between individuals and enabling them to come together to solve problems in their local area. There are no targets in place to measure Big Society, although officials are considering innovative ways of tracking the progress of Big Society, without imposing reporting burdens on local initiatives.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the role of the Neighbourhood Helpers scheme in developing the big society; and if he will make a statement. [41883]

Mr Hurd: I am aware of a variety of Neighbourhood Helpers schemes around the country and of the good work they do within communities. In particular, Neighbourhood Helpers offer a level of support from within the community, at a fraction of the cost of public services. My Department is looking to build on this and similar ideas, for example by supporting the development of Time Banking nationally. Government are also developing the Community First fund which will support the creation of new and existing community groups.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to monitor reductions in provision to the voluntary sector by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* each Government Department. [44598]

Mr Hurd: It is for local residents rather than central Government to uphold democratic accountability. As transparency is the foundation of accountability, all council business should be open to public scrutiny—including voluntary sector funding. The Government are consulting on a code of recommended practice to enshrine the principles of data transparency and to set out the minimum data that should be published.

The Department for Communities and Local Government provides unhypothecated formula grant to local authorities, which they use to meet locally identified priorities. It has no plans to monitor how local authorities spend their formula grant allocations.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government set out on 1 March his 'reasonable expectations' of how local authorities will conduct themselves:

> First that councils will not pass on disproportionate cuts to local voluntary and community groups and not inflict bigger reductions to their budgets than the councils take on themselves.
>
> Second that councils will have been talking to voluntary and community groups at a very early stage about how services need to change.
>
> Third that councils give voluntary and community groups at least three months notice when they think they need to end or alter a grant, or other support.
>
> Fourth that they use these three months to give local groups a chance to make their case and suggest alternative ways of redesigning or reshaping the service.

Government Departments, too, need to understand the impact of reductions in provision to the voluntary and community sector, and officials are working together to ensure transparency between departments as decisions are made.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43476]

Chris Grayling: The deployment of staff and efficient use of office space is always subject to review. At the present time, there are no plans to relocate departmental staff and offices to Brighton.

However, one of the Department's arm's length bodies, The Pensions Regulator, is currently located in Brighton. As well as their core task of regulating occupational pension schemes, the Regulator's role is expanding to oversee the compliance of employers with the workplace pension reforms coming into force from 2012.

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families in receipt of the childcare element of working tax credit had a child aged two or under in the latest period for which figures are available. [52512]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credits with at least one child aged two or under as at December 2010 is 108,520.

This information is based on tax credits snapshot data. More information about these data can be found at:

> http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-dec2010.pdf

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households he estimates were receiving assistance with childcare costs where *(a)* 80% or more and *(b)* 90% or more were covered in the latest period for which figures are available. [52513]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The child care element of tax credits in 2010-11 covered up to 80% of child care costs of up to £175 a week for one child and £300 a week for two or more children. From April 2011, the proportion is 70%, reverting back to 2006 levels.

In addition, some families that are also entitled to housing benefit and/or council tax benefit will be able to disregard child care payments from their earnings in housing benefit and council tax benefit. Where this is the case, they may see over 90% of their costs covered. Data showing the number of households benefiting from the additional disregard in those benefits are not available.

Child Support

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the length of time taken to settle child support claims; and if he will make a statement. [50245]

Maria Miller: I have had no specific representations on this issue but I am aware that for some people the length of time to settle their child support claim is unacceptable and MPs' post bags reflect this. The performance of the Child Support Agency is stable and their December 2010 quarterly summary of statistics shows that:

> 88.7% of intake received in September 2010 was cleared within 12 weeks.

The Government are continuing to invest in a new streamlined child maintenance scheme to replace the existing CSA schemes. This will be introduced in 2012 and will deliver a significantly improved service for parents. More details are set out in the consultation document:

> Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance
>
> http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf

Child: Maintenance

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Child Support Agency and its successor in ensuring appropriate maintenance payments are made; and what changes he proposes to make under the reformed statutory child maintenance system; [51637]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve the *(a)* efficiency and *(b)* effectiveness of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; [51638]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that the reformed statutory child maintenance system will provide resident parents with *(a)* an efficient and *(b)* a coherent service. [51639]

Maria Miller: Although the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, which is also responsible for the Child Support Agency, has improved its effectiveness over the past few years, we recognise that much more needs to be done. More than 3 million children live in separated families, but only around 50% of those benefit from an effective maintenance arrangement. In addition the annual running costs of the statutory maintenance scheme are approximately £460 million, on average a cost of over 40p for each £1 of child maintenance collected or arranged and this does not represent value for money to the taxpayer.

The consultation document published in January:

Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf

outlines our assessment of some of the issues of the current system and sets out our plans for the radical re-shaping of the child maintenance system.

We want to make it the norm in society that parents take responsibility for putting in place financial support for their children post separation. Research suggests that just over half of parents currently using the statutory maintenance scheme feel they could make their own financial arrangements for their children with the right help. For those families who cannot make a family-based arrangement, the Government are continuing to invest in a new streamlined child maintenance scheme to replace the existing CSA schemes in order to deliver a significantly improved service.

Cold Weather Payments

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid out in cold weather payments in respect of the weather station area covering Chatham and Aylesford constituency in each of the last five years. [52413]

Steve Webb: The information available is given in the following table.

Estimated expenditure on cold weather payments in weather stations which covered the Chatham and Aylesford constituency in the last five years

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Charlwood	0	0	3,245,000	3,430,000	8,955,000
Gravesend	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,967,500	4,650,000
Manston	0	0	2,752,500	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not applicable: the weather station was not used in the cold weather payment scheme in that year.

Zero denotes that there were no triggers for that weather station in that winter.

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, figures given are estimates. Actuals are not available.
2. A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0° C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. (When the temperature criterion is met, the weather station is said to trigger.)
3. Some weather stations listed are linked both to an area within the Chatham and Aylesford constituency and also to an area outside of it. Estimated numbers given are for the weather station as a whole, not for the part of the Chatham and Aylesford constituency linked to the weather station.
4. Some postcode to weather station linkages have changed from one year to the next, so estimated numbers are not always comparable from year to year.
5. Estimated numbers are for cold weather payments triggered in the relevant financial year.
6. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
7. Some benefit units received more than one payment in some years.
8. Estimated expenditure has been rounded to the nearest £100.

Sources:

Postcode districts in Chatham and Aylesford constituency: analysis of National Statistics Postcode Directory.

Postcode district to weather station links: Department for Work and Pensions records.

Estimated numbers:

scans of benefit computer systems taken at the end of October each year giving the number of potential qualifiers for cold weather payments by weather station;

Department for Work and Pensions records of triggers;

Department for Work and Pensions records of the total number of payments actually made by benefit computer system and clerically.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in the weather station area covering Chatham and Aylesford constituency qualified for cold weather payments in each of the last five years. [52414]

Steve Webb: The information available is as follows:

Estimated recipients of at least one cold weather payment in each of the weather stations which cover the Chatham and Aylesford constituency in the last five years

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Charlwood	0	0	43,300	45,700	119,400
Gravesend	n/a	n/a	n/a	118,700	46,500
Manston	0	0	110,100	n/a	n/a

'n/a' denotes not applicable. The weather station was not used in the cold weather payment scheme in that year.

'0' denotes that there were no triggers for that weather station in that winter.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, figures given are estimates. Actuals are not available.
2. A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. (When the temperature criterion is met, the weather station is said to trigger.)
3. Some weather stations listed are linked both to an area within the Chatham and Aylesford constituency and also to an area outside of it. Estimated numbers given are for the weather station as a whole, not for the part of the Chatham and Aylesford constituency linked to the weather station.
4. Some postcode to weather station linkages have changed from one year to the next, so estimated numbers are not always comparable from year to year.
5. Estimated numbers are for cold weather payments triggered in the relevant financial year.
6. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
7. Some benefit units received more than one payment in some years.
8. Estimated numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.
9. The question has been interpreted as requesting the number of people who received at least one cold weather payment as opposed to the number of people who were eligible to receive a payment.

Sources:

Postcode districts in the Chatham and Aylesford constituency: analysis of National Statistics Postcode Directory.

Postcode district to weather station links: Department for Work and Pensions records.

Estimated numbers:

Scans of benefit computer systems taken at the end of October each year giving the number of potential qualifiers for cold weather payments by weather station;

Department for Work and Pensions records of triggers;

Department for Work and Pensions records of the total number of payments actually made by benefit computer system and clerically.

Community Care Grants

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value was of applications for (i) community care grants, (ii) crisis loans and (iii) budgeting loans in Oxford in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what amounts were granted consequent upon such application in each category. [51792]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. Geographical information is only available by Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area or Government office region.

Crisis Loans: Vale of Clwyd

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans have been granted to residents of Vale of Clwyd constituency in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [51768]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at constituency level but only by Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area or Government office region.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 856W, on departmental public appointments, for what reasons the answer referred to a website which does not provide current information; and how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women who held public appointments in bodies sponsored by his Department are no longer in those roles as a result of decisions to merge, close or reorganise such bodies taken since his appointment. [51443]

Chris Grayling: My previous answer referred the hon. Lady to the latest available published information.

I can now inform the hon. Lady that as a result of decisions to merge, close or reorganise public bodies sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions:

(a) Five men and ten women who were public appointees, are no longer in those roles; and

(b) Subject to Royal Assent of the Public Bodies Bill, a further eight men and six women, who are public appointees, will no longer be in those roles.

Departmental Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are entitled to travel first class by rail within the UK. [47063]

Chris Grayling: DWP have an outright ban on first class travel, with one exception, staff with a disability/medical condition who can not secure suitable standard class facilities are still permitted to travel in first class.

Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations his Department introduced between 9 and 28 February 2011. [46953]

Chris Grayling: The information is contained in the following table.

SI Number	*Title*	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*
2011/228	The Employment and Support Allowance (Limited Capability for Work and Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	8 February 2011	16 February 2011	28 March 2011

Disability Living Allowance

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to encourage local authorities to provide support to those who will no longer meet eligibility criteria for disability living allowance. [43149]

Maria Miller: As part of the reform of DLA mobility, we are exploring the current responsibilities of local authorities and looking at what they provide in practice.

We will ensure that when we introduce personal independence payment from April 2013 it treats disabled people fairly, regardless of their place of residence; reducing overlaps of public spending, not disabled people's ability to get out and about.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the potential effects of his planned changes to disability living allowance on charitable organisations. [45100]

Maria Miller: We are working with disabled people and organisations who represent them on the detailed design and delivery of personal independence payment. This will help inform our understanding of the impacts of changes on both disabled people and any impacts on disability organisations.

We are still working on the design of the assessment and the operational processes and intend to continue working with disabled people and disability organisations as we take this work forwards. We would expect individuals to be accessing the relevant support services, regardless of benefit receipt.

The Department will continue to work closely with the charity Motability to understand the impacts of the reformed system of personal independence payment on Motability. Motability will continue to play an important role, going forward, in supporting the mobility of severely disabled people who are entitled to mobility component of personal independence payment.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to reduce the number of claimants in receipt of disability living allowance for *(a)* mobility component and *(b)* care component at the higher rate. [50439]

Maria Miller: From 2013-14 disability living allowance will be replaced by personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need.

We are finalising the design of personal independence payment. The assessment will look at people as individuals, rather than labelling them as part of a group, or with a particular health condition or impairment. As the new assessment is not launched I am unable to predict the outcome of the assessment and precisely which individuals will see a change in entitlement.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 43W, on disability living allowance, if he will estimate the cost of providing the mobility component of the allowance to new and existing child claimants in each of the next four financial years. [50445]

Maria Miller: The following table shows forecast of expenditure on mobility component of DLA for children in each of the next four financial years.

	Expenditure (£ million)
2011-12	335
2012-13	351
2013-14	362
2014-15	376

Notes:
1. Expenditure has been rounded to the nearest million pounds.
2. Figures are based on the Budget 2011 forecast and include the delay to the care homes measure.

Source:
Budget 2011 Expenditure Forecast.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of the disability living allowance for the *(a)* mobility component and *(b)* care component at the higher rate in each of the last five years. [50523]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Disability living allowance recipients with higher rate care component or higher rate mobility component

As at August each year	*Higher care rate*	*Higher mobility rate*
2010	740,010	1,783,540
2009	710,780	1,765,610
2008	679,180	1,738,340
2007	655,000	1,712,150
2006	621,910	1,674,460

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data are for the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. DLA recipients can be paid both the higher rate for care and the higher rate for mobility
4. These figures are published at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled children living in a residential school or care home were in receipt of the mobility component of disability living allowance on the most recent date for which figures are available. [51724]

Maria Miller: There are 2,000 children in residential care (which includes children in residential special schools) of which 1,200 are in receipt of the lower rate mobility component and 800 are in receipt of the higher rate component.

Disability Living Allowance: Further Education

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce barriers to attending further education courses away from home for individuals in receipt of mobility allowance. [41398]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions administers the mobility component of disability living allowance. This benefit is paid in respect of a person's mobility needs and is for them to meet any needs as they choose, including the additional disability related travel cost an individual may incur as a result of attending a further education course.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which has policy responsibility for further education, supports schemes, such as the Residential Support Scheme and Adult Discretionary Learner Support, that facilitate access to further education by disabled people. Through Additional Learning Support there is also direct support for FE colleges and training organisations to enable them to help learners access, progress towards and successfully achieve their learning goals.

Disability Living Allowance: Motherwell

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the level of disability living allowance payments in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in *(a)* April 2011 and *(b)* April 2012. [51266]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available as forecasts are not made at constituency level.

The latest information available is from August 2010, which gives the average weekly amount of disability living allowance payments for Motherwell and Wishaw constituency as £75.48.

Uprating is 3.1% in 2011 and the Office of Budgetary Responsibilities assumption for 2012 is that uprating will be 4.3%.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of disability living allowance in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency will be subject to objective assessment in 2011-12. [51308]

Maria Miller: From 2013 disability living allowance for people of working age will be replaced by personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. We will begin reassessing working-age individuals in receipt of DLA using the new objective assessment for personal independence payment from 2013.

Until 2013, new claims to DLA and changes of current DLA claims will continue to be assessed using the current process.

In 2010-11 there were around 30,000 face-to-face medical examinations conducted across Great Britain to help determine eligibility for DLA, at new claim and renewal of awards[1]. We are unable to provide an estimate for the number of face-to-face medical assessments expected to take place in Motherwell and Wishaw in 2011-12.

[1] This figure is from an Operational data source which does not capture all DLA activity, however we know that around 90% of new claim and renewal decisions are recorded in this data. This limitation means that this result should be treated as an estimate only.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the reduction in monetary value of disability living allowance paid to claimants in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency as a result of the consumer prices index replacing the retail prices index for uprating of benefits and tax credits in 2011-12. [51309]

Maria Miller: The Chancellor announced in the emergency budget that from 2011 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) will be used to measure the growth in prices for the purposes of uprating disability living allowance and attendance allowance.

We believe that the CPI is a more appropriate and stable measure of the cost of living for recipients of disability living allowance and attendance allowance than the retail price index (RPI) because the cost of goods and services which are used to measure it are more relevant to these benefit recipients. CPI is also the headline of inflation in the UK and the one that is reported in the press and is internationally recognised.

The information is in the following table.

£

Rate of DLA	*2011-12 Projected rates uprated by RPI*	*2011-12 Actual rates uprated by CPI*
Highest care	73.60	73.60
Middle care	49.25	49.30
Lowest care	19.50	19.55
Higher mobility	51.35	51.40
Lower mobility	19.50	19.55

Notes:
Actual 2011-12 rates are calculated by adding CPI (3.1%) to 2010-11 rates. These in turn were 1.5% higher than 2009-10 rates. Under the previous policy, in order to recover the 1.5% advance in 2010-11 (when the RPI figure driving uprating was negative), 2011-12 rates would have been 2009-10 rates plus RPI (4.6%), yielding a slightly lower figure. All calculations are rounded to the nearest 5p.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the weekly cost to the public purse of payments of disability living allowance in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [51314]

Maria Miller: The average weekly cost of paying disability living allowance in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in 2009-10 was £549,000.

Employers Liability

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take on the establishment of an Employers Liability Tracing Office (ELTO); when he expects the ELTO to *(a)* be established and *(b)* become operational; whether he plans to publish the outcomes of his Department's consultation on ELTO; and if he will make a statement. [51819]

Chris Grayling: There were two proposals in the consultation; firstly an Employers' Liability Tracing Office (ELTO), that would manage a database of Employer Liability policies. Secondly, an Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau which would be a compensation fund of last resort for those individuals who are unable to trace EL insurance records.

The Association of British Insurers has been working to establish an ELTO which is due to go live this spring.

I appreciate that the Government's response to the consultation is taking longer to publish than we had hoped for. However the issues raised are complex and to ensure we get this right we have been in active discussions with all stakeholders since the public consultation closed. We are still carefully considering how to progress the matter to achieve an appropriate outcome and we will bring forward our proposals in due course.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of employment and support allowance claimants were in *(a)* the work-related activity group and *(b)* the support group in (i) February and (ii) May 2009. [46503]

Maria Miller: Information on the number and proportion of employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants by Phase/Stage of claim is not available for the periods February 2009 and May 2009.

Figures for Phase/Stage of claim are only available from February 2010 onwards.

For the right hon. Gentleman's information, the February 2010 and May 2010 figures are shown in the following table.

Number and proportion of employment and support allowance claimants in the work-related activity group and support group

	Total number of ESA claimants	*Percentage of ESA claimants in work-related activity group*	*Percentage of ESA claimants in support group*
February 2010	479,430	16.9	6.4
May 2010	527,120	20.7	7.4

Notes:
1. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from 27 October 2008.
2. The phase is derived from payment details held on the source system. Where the claimant is not in receipt of any benefit payment then the stage of benefit is shown as unknown.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the potential savings to his Department of setting the maximum length of claim for employment and support allowance at *(a)* one and *(b)* two years. [47019]

Maria Miller: As part of The Welfare Reform Bill we intend to introduce a one-year time limit to contributory employment support allowance for those in the Work Related Activity Group. This change will be introduced in April 2012 and will have an immediate effect on people who are currently claiming contributory employment and support allowance as well as new claims.

People in the Support Group will not have their benefit time limited because they have the most severe health conditions or disabilities and are the least likely to move into work.

People receiving income-related employment and support allowance will not have their benefit time limited.

The details for this measure can be found in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/esa-time-limit-wr2011-ia.pdf

We are unable to estimate the savings for such measures as they would depend upon the costs of any additional support mechanisms that would need to be put in place to avoid leaving people with no access to the benefits system, and any savings would also be dependent on the introduction of universal credit.

Employment and Support Allowance: Cancer

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to his Department of requiring employment and support allowance claimants who are cancer patients in receipt of oral chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment to undertake work capability assessments in each of the next four years. [47014]

Maria Miller: The National Statistics datasets on employment and support allowance claimants do not contain any information about whether cancer patients are receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy. The information requested cannot therefore be provided.

Statistics on employment and support allowance claimants by duration of claim and medical condition data are available and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Employment Schemes

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* enterprise clubs and *(b)* work clubs are planned for each (i) region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) parliamentary constituency. [51781]

Chris Grayling: Work Clubs and Enterprise Clubs are designed and delivered locally with some support from Jobcentre Plus. We do not set specific expectations or targets for the number of Work Clubs or Enterprise Clubs, allowing them instead to grow organically in communities, making the best use of local energy, expertise and resources. The data requested are therefore not available.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget his Department has allocated to support *(a)* enterprise clubs and *(b)* work clubs in 2011-12. [51782]

Chris Grayling: In the Budget we announced an extension of funding aimed to support those interested in setting up a Work Club or an Enterprise Club, increasing the amount available to £3 million in 2011-12.

Employment Schemes: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many places on employment schemes other than Remploy supported by his Department are available in Bassetlaw constituency. [51452]

Chris Grayling: The bulk of the employment programme provision funded by the Department for Work and Pensions is based on the need for employment support, rather than on a fixed number of places. When the new Work programme is introduced over the summer there should be a place for everyone meeting the eligibility criteria.

Employment Schemes: Hearing Impairment

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions will be made for deaf people under the Government's Work programme proposals. [52133]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme will cater for a wide range of customer groups, including many with disabilities and health issues.

Harder to help customers will be able to access the programme early if appropriate and we will pay providers more to support them. For example, if a provider supports a customer moving from incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance into sustained employment, they can earn almost £14,000.

We have not told providers what they must do to support customers except that they should provide a truly personalised service that addresses their customers' specific challenges. They will be free to innovate to find new and more effective ways of overcoming a range of disadvantages, including disabilities.

Many customers with disabilities are eligible for in work support through Access to Work, and those referred to the Work programme will remain eligible for the elements of this which providers could not reasonably be expected to offer.

Employment and Support Allowance: Multiple Sclerosis

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether people with multiple sclerosis will exempted from the new employment support allowance assessment. [51671]

Chris Grayling: We are committed to supporting those who cannot work because of a health condition or disability, but we also want to help as many people as possible to find suitable work.

Entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) is based on an individual's functional ability rather than the condition itself. Therefore, we have no plans to automatically exempt individuals with multiple sclerosis from the ESA assessment.

However, we recognise that asking customers to attend an unnecessary examination is in no one's interests. For new claims where an individual's condition is likely to qualify them for the ESA support group, or as part of the incapacity benefits reassessment process where entitlement criteria continues to be met, health care professionals will advise where possible on the basis of paper based evidence, thereby avoiding the need for a face to face assessment.

Health and Safety Executive

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance LAC 5/19 applies to *(a)* school staff and *(b)* school children; and whether the HSE has considered amending the guidance in the light of (i) the Supreme Court judgment in Knowsley Metropolitan borough council *v.* Willmore and (ii) the conclusions of the Government advisory committee on risks from low level exposure to asbestos. [51981]

Chris Grayling: Local authority circular (LAC) 5/19 provides technical guidance and is not school specific. In it HSE gives advice to local authority regulators and others on the risks from asbestos to enable them to answer inquiries about possible or inadvertent exposures. It includes generic advice for employers, employees and members of the public. To that extent school staff and school children, who may be inadvertently exposed if all the required systems fail to prevent significant exposures, are covered by the advice in the LAC.

There are no plans to revise the LAC as a direct result of the discussions of the HSE's independent advisory committee WATCH (Working Group on the Assessment of Toxic Chemicals). It has been established for some time that the lower the exposure to asbestos, the lower the risk of disease, and that based on current evidence it is not possible to identify safe thresholds. The LAC's medical advice to anyone concerned that they may have had significant exposure remains current.

Under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 employers are required to prevent exposure to asbestos and, if this is not reasonably practical, reduce exposure to the lowest level reasonably practicable below the control limit. Neither the WATCH conclusions, which are shortly to be published, nor the Supreme Court judgment in the recent civil law compensation case Knowsley Metropolitan borough council *v.* Willmore imply any alteration to the existing duties under the regulations are required.

The work to further advance our knowledge of risk at current exposure levels is ongoing and HSE will continue to keep this and related matters under review.

Housing Benefit

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on raising the age threshold for the shared accommodation allowance. [50648]

Steve Webb: My Department has had regular discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government both at ministerial and official level on the changes to the shared accommodation rate. These discussions are ongoing as the policy develops.

The Department has just completed a procurement exercise with leading research organisations for the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of the housing benefit measures.

The precise form of the evaluation is being determined with the successful contractor, but we anticipate that it will consider the availability and the likely effects of housing benefit reductions on rent levels in the private sector and include fieldwork examining the effects on different types of households in a range of areas across Great Britain.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of housing benefit reductions on rent levels in the private sector. [50650]

Steve Webb: The Department has just completed a procurement exercise with leading research organisations for the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of the housing benefit measures.

The precise form of the evaluation is being determined with the successful contractor, but we anticipate that it will consider the availability the likely effects of housing benefit reductions on rent levels in the private sector and include fieldwork examining the effects on different types of households in a range of areas across Great Britain.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the likely effects on the availability of private rented accommodation for those under the age of 35 years of raising the age threshold for the shared accommodation allowance. [50651]

Steve Webb: My Department has had discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the change to the shared accommodation rate both at ministerial level and official level. It is too soon to assess the behavioural responses of landlords or tenants to this and other changes being made to housing benefit.

The Department has just completed a procurement exercise with leading research organisations for the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of the housing benefit measures.

The precise form of the evaluation is being determined with the successful contractor, but we anticipate that it will consider the availability and the likely effects of housing benefit reductions on rent levels in the private sector and include fieldwork examining the effects on different types of households in a range of areas across Great Britain.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the number of landlords who will no longer let properties to those on housing benefit following the reduction on the rate of local housing allowance. [50673]

Steve Webb: The Department has just completed a procurement exercise with leading research organisations for the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of the housing benefit measures.

The precise form of the evaluation is being determined with the successful contractor, but we anticipate that it will estimate of the number of landlords who will no longer let properties to those on housing benefit following the reduction on the rate of local housing allowance.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the Exchequer of reducing housing benefit entitlement to household size in the social rented sector where 10% of tenants identified in his Department's impact assessment leave the property they are underoccupying; and what estimate he has made of the potential savings that will accrue where this figure is *(a)* 20%, *(b)* 30%, *(c)* 40%, *(d)* 50%, *(e)* 60%, *(f)* 70%, *(g)* 80% and *(h)* 90% of those affected. [52434]

Steve Webb: This information is not available. The potential impacts on savings of tenants leaving the property they are under-occupying are complex and subject to a great deal of uncertainty. They depend partly on the accommodation to which the tenant moves and the accommodation from which the new tenant taking up their property comes.

The details of the policy design are still being developed and we shall provide more information as this process progresses, particularly when we publish draft regulations.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households which would be affected by his proposed overall benefits cap who were placed in their accommodation under local authority prevention and relief of homelessness duties. [52462]

Steve Webb: We are introducing a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so households on out of work benefits will no longer receive more in benefit than the average weekly wage earned by working families.

No assessment has been made of the number of households which would be affected by this cap who were placed in their accommodation under local authority prevention and relief of homelessness duties.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households deemed to be under-occupying their social rented accommodation who are in work but still receive some housing benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [52464]

Steve Webb: Using information from the Department's 2008-09 Family Resources Survey, we estimate that there are about 100,000 working households in receipt of housing benefit, living in the social rented sector and where the household is considered to be under-occupying their accommodation.

Notes:

1. Data for 2008-09 Family Resources Survey were collected between April 2008 and March 2009.

2. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 23,000 households across Great Britain.

3. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimate presented should be treated with caution.

4. Figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government office region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

5. The figure has been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

6. Under-occupation has been estimated by applying the same criteria that applies to most housing benefit claimants living in the private rented sector.

7. Working households includes cases where the housing benefit claimant, their partner, or both the claimant and partner are working. No account has been taken of the number of hours that are worked or whether the claimant retains entitlement to other income-related benefits, such as income support.

Housing Benefit: Landlords

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the portion of universal credit awarded as housing benefit can be paid directly to landlords. [51836]

Steve Webb: There are advantages in paying the housing component to individuals, rather than the current system of payments direct to landlords. This would encourage people to manage their own budget in the same way as other households.

However, we also recognise the importance of stable rental income for social landlords to support the delivery of new homes and will develop universal credit in a way that protects their financial position, Options for achieving this could include some ongoing use of direct payments to landlords, use of direct debits, and a protection mechanism which safeguards landlords' income. We will work closely with the devolved administrations, providers and lenders in developing the new system.

Housing Benefit: Single People

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single people aged between 25 and 34 are claiming the one bedroom local housing allowance rate in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* broad rental market area. [51351]

Steve Webb: The Department published the "Two Year Review of the Local Housing Allowance" in February 2011, which includes the current caseload proportions claiming the one bedroom local housing allowance rate, in figure 2.11. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

The Department plans to publish an equality impact assessment for the shared accommodation rate changes within the next two months, to accompany the draft regulations. This will contain estimates of the numbers of single housing benefit claimants between the ages of 25 and 34 who will be affected by these changes.

Immigrants: Wealth

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of immigration to the UK of foreign-born millionaires and billionaires has on the collection and presentation of Government data on relative poverty. [52220]

Maria Miller: It is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. Definitions of low income households are set out in the annual National Statistics publication "Households Below Average Income". This reports numbers of individuals in households below or persistently below 50%, 60% and 70% of median household income both before and after deducting housing costs. One of the reasons why the median rather than the mean is used is because the median is much less affected by extreme values. Therefore any immigration of foreign-born millionaires and billionaires might have a very slight upwards effect on the median, but both the impact on the median and on the poverty statistics would be negligible.

Industrial Health and Safety

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require all employers to record risk assessment findings. [52375]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to amend the Management of Health and Safety Regulations to require all employers to record the findings of their risk assessment regardless of how many people they employ. The Government does not believe such a change to be necessary or proportionate.

I have recently announced a review of health and safety regulation. Professor Ragnar Lofstedt, is leading the review and has been asked to make recommendations by the autumn on simplifying the current rules. The Government will then decide what actions to take in the light of those recommendations.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions were issued by each Jobcentre Plus centre in the last six months for which figures are available. [51663]

Chris Grayling: The information is in the following table:

Jobseeker's allowance: Sanctions May to October 2010 (referrals with an adverse decision)

Jobcentre Plus region	*Varied length sanctions*	*Fixed length sanctions*	*Entitlement decisions*	*All sanctions*
Total	51,000	256,880	72,300	380,180
Scotland	4,270	22,020	5,380	31,670
North-east	2,940	14,820	3,280	21,040
North-west	7,430	35,100	14,550	57,080
Yorkshire and Humberside	5,500	25,740	3,140	34,380
Wales	3,140	15,130	1,400	19,670
West midlands	3,210	27,480	6,400	37,090
East midlands	3,010	20,450	3,910	27,370
East of England	5,300	21,990	3,130	30,420
South-east	5,130	23,230	7,810	36,170
London	5,340	39,620	20,390	65,350
South-west	5,680	10,820	2,780	19,280
Unknown	70	450	140	660

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure has been applied.
2. The number of sanctions applied is the number of referrals where there has been an adverse decision.
3. Varied length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for anything up to 26 weeks
4. Fixed length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for either 2,4 or 26 weeks.
5. Entitlement decisions are where the JSA claimant has their entitlement to JSA ended.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: JSA sanctions and entitlement disallowance decisions statistics database. Data are cumulative from April 2000 to current data extract date.

Pensions

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people currently making pension contributions who will receive a lesser return on their contributions as a result of implementation of his proposed reform; and what estimate he has made of the average loss per such contribution of the first 12 months following retirement. [51953]

Steve Webb: The Government's consultation paper 'A state pension for the 21st century', published on 4 April 2011, set out two high level options for state pension reform. Following the consultation process the Government will be considering all the responses to our options for delivering a simpler and fairer state pension. As policy development is still under way it is not possible to provide detailed information on impacts at this stage.

However the Government have made it clear that were we to proceed with plans for a single tier pension we would continue to honour contributions to the current system.

We will provide a full assessment of impacts when the Government publish more detailed proposals for reform.

Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on social mobility of levels of poverty. [48612]

Maria Miller: The Department has not commissioned or undertaken analysis on the effect on social mobility of levels of poverty.

Undertaking evaluation of poverty's impact on social mobility is particularly difficult because of the absence of relevant data for long periods of time—that is, over the life-cycle and/or over more than one generation.

Poverty: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the position of the UK on international comparator tables for child poverty. [48611]

Maria Miller: Relative income poverty (households with less than 60% of the median income) is the conventional measure of child poverty used internationally. In 2009, the UK had the eleventh highest level of children in relative income poverty among members of the European Union. This Government recognise that income measures and targets do not tell the full story about the causes and consequences of childhood disadvantage. The Government's child poverty strategy, published 5 April 2011, is a comprehensive three year plan to lay the foundations for a new and more effective approach. We plan to tackle head-on the causes of poverty, such as worklessness and low educational attainment, which underpin low achievement, aspiration and opportunity across generations.

Remploy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date a Minister last visited the Remploy site in Worksop. [51254]

Maria Miller: There is no recent record of a ministerial visit to the Worksop site. I have visited and met employees at the Acton and Coventry factories and the Coventry Employment Services branch.

I will continue to visit Remploy sites and will always listen to the views of Remploy employees and all those who have a close interest in Remploy.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former service personnel Remploy has employed since 1981. [51298]

Maria Miller: Remploy have confirmed that they do not record information on the former employment of its employees.

Remploy Employment Services is actively engaged with two Ministry of Defence programmes: the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), which provides support for former service personnel to find employment with mainstream employers; and the Army Recovery Capability (ARC) which supports service personnel from the point of injury or illness to their return to duty, or into civilian life.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he has discussed with Bassetlaw Council any potential change of use for the site occupied by Remploy in Worksop; [51453]

(2) what estimate he has made of the book value of the land occupied by the Remploy site in Worksop; [51256]

(3) what discussions he has had with the private sector on the sale of Remploy facilities in Worksop. [51377]

Maria Miller: Remploy as part of its five year modernisation plan is developing a social enterprise model in five sites including the Worksop factory. In Worksop, social enterprise businesses have been developed in carpentry and catering and the company will continue to explore, with the factory employees, any social enterprise opportunities in their local area.

The recent voluntary redundancy exercise has been offered to all staff in Remploy's Enterprise Businesses including staff in Worksop. The company have confirmed that no factory will close as a result of this exercise.

There are no plans to change the use of the site and we are not aware of any discussions with Bassetlaw council, or other parties regarding any change of use, value of or sale of the Worksop site.

Social Security Benefits

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Medway *(b)* Tonbridge and Malling and *(c)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency had been in receipt of benefits for (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months and (iv) 18 months and over on the latest date for which figures are available. [50047]

Maria Miller: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Claimants of working age benefits in Chatham and Aylesford, Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency, Tonbridge and Malling local authority and Medway—August 2010

	Total	*Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency*	*Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency*	*Medway LA*	*Tonbridge and Malling LA*
All durations					
All	5,744,640	9,520	5,220	24,970	6,880
Job Seeker	1,349,710	2,360	990	6,100	1,330
ESA and Incapacity benefits	2,606,610	3,710	2,180	9790	2,840
Lone Parent	672,350	1,360	680	3,470	920
Carer	439,430	820	500	2,250	670
Others on income related benefit	191,380	360	160	870	230
Disabled	396,810	760	560	2,090	720
Bereaved	88,360	150	140	400	180
Duration of less than six months					
All	1,295,570	2,200	1,110	5,610	1,510
Job Seeker	841,610	1,320	670	3,440	900
ESA and Incapacity benefits	240,440	400	210	1,020	290
Lone Parent	93,060	220	90	480	150
Carer	41,800	80	60	260	70
Others on income related benefit	47,050	110	40	240	50
Disabled	21,430	60	30	130	40
Bereaved	10,180	20	10	50	20
Duration of six months up to one year					
All	563,470	1,060	540	2,700	710
Job Seeker	247,320	460	180	1,150	230
ESA and Incapacity benefits	138,830	250	140	630	180
Lone Parent	77,990	160	90	390	120
Carer	39,910	80	50	200	70
Others on income related benefit	29,480	50	30	140	40
Disabled	19,030	40	30	130	40

Claimants of working age benefits in Chatham and Aylesford, Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency, Tonbridge and Malling local authority and Medway—August 2010

	Total	*Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency*	*Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency*	*Medway LA*	*Tonbridge and Malling LA*
Bereaved	10,900	30	20	50	30
Duration of one year to 18 months					
All	373,130	700	340	1,860	470
Job Seeker	122,800	250	60	690	80
ESA and Incapacity benefits	102,350	170	110	430	150
Lone Parent	66,510	120	70	320	100
Carer	34,360	80	40	180	60
Others on income related benefit	23,090	50	30	110	40
Disabled	20,810	30	30	120	40
Bereaved	3,210	10	-	10	-
Duration of 18 months and over					
All	3,512,470	5,540	3,220	14,800	4,190
Job Seeker	137,970	320	90	810	110
ESA and Incapacity benefits	2,124,980	2,900	1,730	7,710	2,230
Lone Parent	434,780	860	420	2,290	540
Carer	323,350	590	350	1,610	470
Others on income related benefit	91,760	150	70	380	100
Disabled	335,550	630	460	1,720	600
Bereaved	64,070	100	100	290	130

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Duration for this analysis is the duration of the oldest benefit which the client is currently claiming.
3. State pension age: The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change. For more information see:
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/espa.pdf
4. Statistical group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. For example a claimant of disability living allowance and jobseeker's allowance would appear in 'Job Seeker', not in 'Disabled'.
5. Statistical group 'Lone Parents' are defined as claimants on income support with child under 16 and no partner. Lone Parent Obligations were introduced from 24 November 2008 affecting the age of the youngest child.
6. From November 2008 the 'incapacity benefits group' includes employment and support allowance (ESA). ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support (IS) paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this the 'incapacity benefits group' referred to claimants of incapacity benefit (including credits only) or severe disablement allowance including people claiming IS on the grounds of incapacity.
7. '—' Denotes nil or negligible.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that adults who are on the autistic spectrum have access to advocacy services to assist with applications for welfare benefits. [50892]

Maria Miller: Jobcentre Plus is committed to providing individual tailored support to customers with autistic spectrum conditions using our services. We make required reasonable adjustments, including making use of the most suitable environment or premises for conducting interviews. Where individual customers ask us to, we will work with their families, an advocate or representative to facilitate access to our services.

We ensure our advisers are aware of the need to make suitable adjustments for people with autistic spectrum conditions. Our specialist disability employment advisers also receive additional skills training including provision about autism.

Our "Raising the Game on Disability" seminars also promote disability awareness and confidence and are available to all Jobcentre Plus staff. The seminars feature advice on working with customers with autism.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* his Department's expenditure on and *(b)* the number of people claiming each benefit for which his Department is responsible in each year to 2015. [51563]

Chris Grayling: The requested information, consistent with the 2011 Budget, is due to be published on 21 April 2011 at the following website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

A copy will be placed in the Library at the same time.

Information consistent with the 29 November autumn statement can currently be found at the above website.

Social Security Benefits: Digitalisation

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with groups representing *(a)* people with disabilities and *(b)* older people on the proposed digitalisation of the benefits system; and if he will make a statement. [43129]

Steve Webb: My Department is committed to understanding the experience of older and disabled people when developing digital benefit services. The new state pension and jobseeker's allowance online services were developed and tested with those customers. We will continue to involve users and consult representative groups and partners in the design of online benefits. This will include identifying how we can assist those people who might need help to use digital technology as we make more benefits accessible on line. Where necessary, we will maintain telephony and face to face channels for vulnerable customers and complex transactions.

Unemployment: Females

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to prevent women in employment becoming unemployed before they reach the state pension age. [50501]

Steve Webb: The Government's Age Positive initiative continues to present the business benefits to employers of retaining older workers. Age Positive is working with key business sector leaders to introduce flexible working and retirement practices that allow older people to continue working. Offering more flexible and part-time working can help older people stay in employment up to state pension age and beyond.

The Government will consult later in the spring on proposals to extend the right to request flexible working to all workers in order to help women and men of all ages remain in employment.

Universal Credit

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr. Bain) of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 970W, on universal credit, what estimate he has made of the potential cost to the Exchequer of top-up funds paid to families who will have their entitlement decrease as a result of the introduction of the universal credit. [51512]

Chris Grayling: The Government have made a commitment that there will be no cash losers purely as a result of the move to universal credit. At the point of change a comparison will be made between current amount received in tax credits and/or benefits and the household entitlement under universal credit. If the universal credit entitlement is less, and no other circumstances have changed, a cash amount will be paid in order to make up the difference.

Details of this protection have yet to be fully worked out but we would expect future increases in universal credit entitlement to reduce the need for transitional protection. Estimates during the transition period are not available.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr. Bain) of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 970W, on universal credit, whether people who have a decrease in their annual entitlement will receive a cash amount in order to make up the difference for *(a)* the first year and *(b)* subsequent years. [51513]

Chris Grayling: The Government have made a commitment that there will be no cash losers as a result of the move to universal credit. At the point of change a comparison will be made between the amount received in tax credits and/or benefits and the household entitlement under universal credit. If the universal credit entitlement is less, and no other circumstances have changed, a cash amount will be paid to make up the difference.

The maximum amount of cash protection will be fixed at the point of change and will continue to be paid until the value of the award under the new system catches up with the old entitlement.

We are still considering the details of this major transition to ensure that it is affordable and fair.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr. Bain) of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 970W, on universal credit, if he will estimate how many families with savings between £6,000 and £16,000 will have an average reduction of £210 in their annual entitlement as a result of the introduction of the universal credit in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* region. [51514]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Sample sizes are too small to yield estimates for the number of families with savings between £6,000 and £16,000 who will see an average reduction of £210 in their annual entitlement as the result of the introduction of the universal credit in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* region.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East, (Mr. Bain) of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 970W, on universal credit, if he will estimate how many families with savings above £16,000 will have an average reduction in their annual entitlement of £2,720 as a result of the introduction of the universal credit in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* region. [51515]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Sample sizes are too small to yield estimates for the number of families with savings above £16,000 who will see an average reduction of £2,720 in their annual entitlement as the result of the introduction of the universal credit in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* region.

Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition as a result of changes in the way benefit is calculated.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how those without access to a bank account will receive universal credit payments. [51837]

Chris Grayling: Direct payment into an account is the way the Department normally pays all benefits, pensions and allowances.

Universal credit customers without access to mainstream bank, building society or credit union accounts can be paid as appropriate either through the Post Office card account or the new payment service which will replace cheque payments from 2012.

Warm Front Scheme: Stockton-on-Tees

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the number of people in *(a)* Stockton North constituency and *(b)* the Stockton-on-Tees borough council area who would qualify for assistance under the Warm Front scheme (A) before and (B) after the changes to the qualification criteria. [51196]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

The data requested are not available. Eligibility for the Warm Front scheme has not been estimated below national level.

Winter Fuel Payments: Northumberland

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of providing winter fuel allowance to those *(a)* aged 60 to 79 at the rate of (i) £200 and (ii) £250 per year and (b) aged 80 or over at the rate of (A) £300 and (B) £400 per year in (1) Wansbeck constituency and (2) the county of Northumberland in each of the next four calendar years. [51350]

Steve Webb: The information is not available as requested. Forecasts of winter fuel payments are made on financial years rather than calendar years.

The information that is available is in the following tables:

Wansbeck constituency

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ million, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£200/£300	79 and under	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1
	80 and over	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
	All ages	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2
£250/£400	79 and under	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7
	80 and over	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
	All ages	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1

Northumberland

		Winter fuel payment expenditure (£ million, in-year prices)			
Winter fuel payment rates	*Age group*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£200/£300	79 and under	9.3	9.1	8.9	8.7
	80 and over	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1
	All ages	13.2	13.1	13.0	12.9
£250/£400	79 and under	11.6	11.4	11.2	10.9
	80 and over	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5
	All Ages	16.9	16.7	16.6	16.5

Notes:

1. Expenditure on winter fuel payments is rounded to the nearest £100,000. Age breakdowns may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Expenditure on the "79 and under" age group includes payments to people over women's state pension age, which is increasing from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2018. People under women's state pension age (both men and women) are not eligible for winter fuel payments.
3. Projections of winter fuel payments on a constituency and local authority level use latest administrative data to apportion total Great Britain (GB) expenditure over the requested geography. Therefore they do not allow for potentially different trends between these geographical units and Great Britain overall.
4. GB forecasts of winter fuel payments are consistent with Budget 2011 forecasts.

Source:

Budget 2011 forecasts and projections based on DWP statistical data

Work Capability Assessment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department did not accept the recommendations of the Social Security Advisory Committee on the introduction of the Work Capability Assessment Regulations (S.I., No 228, 2011). [49262]

Chris Grayling: The Social Security Advisory Committee recommended proceeding with some changes but delaying others until they have been considered in light of the findings of the Independent Review. We do not agree with this approach.

We believe that the WCA needs to be continuously improved over time and the changes we made as a result of the Regulations (S.I. No 228 2011) are part of this improvement process. These changes were undertaken following significant consultation with technical experts and disability groups to refine the WCA.

They improve the assessment and make the technical descriptors clearer and more consistent to apply. We also expect that they will increase the number of individuals with severe disabilities being allowed into the support group and ensure the assessment better accounts for an individual's adaptation to their condition.

Since the Social Security Advisory Committee reported, Professor Harrington's independent review has also been published. We have committed to implementing all of his recommendations, many of these address concerns raised by SSAC. This will help us to further improve the WCA and refine the process.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 26 April 2011

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* each other Minister in the Government Equalities Office last used a Ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) she and (ii) each other Minister in her Department has travelled to their constituency in a Ministerial car since May 2010. [50199]

Lynne Featherstone: The Minister for Women and Equalities does not use a ministerial car. In her dual role as the Secretary of State for the Home Department she uses transport provided by the Metropolitan Police.

I last used a ministerial car on official Government Equalities Office (GEO) business on 29 March 2011. Since May 2010 I have made seven journeys to my constituency after attending official (GEO) events.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50208]

Lynne Featherstone: The Minister for Women and Equalities and I share dual roles between the Home Office and Government Equalities Office. We use transport provided by the Metropolitan police and the Home Office respectively. Details of our travel and expenditure are published quarterly on the Home Office website and expenditure on ministerial cars by the Department of Transport's website.

On 1 April 2011 the Government Equalities Office joined the Home Office under a Machinery of Government Transfer.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 2W, on departmental public bodies, how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are no longer members of public bodies for which she is responsible as a result of mergers, reorganisations and abolitions resulting from decisions taken since May 2010. [51441]

Lynne Featherstone *[pursuant to the reply, 28 March 2011, Official Report, c. 2W]:* We announced the outcome of the cross-Government review of all public bodies on 14 October. The review was conducted in order to deliver our commitment, as set out in the coalition agreement, to reduce the cost and number of quangos.

As part of that review, it was decided that the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) will be retained and radically reformed, while the Women's National Commission (WNC) would be closed down and its core functions brought into the Government Equalities Office (GEO).

The WNC closed in December 2010. All public appointments relating to the WNC came to an end as a result of its closure as follows:

(i) 15 women;

(ii) No men.

For the EHRC no public appointments have been affected as a result of the review to date.

Disability

Margaret Curran: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) what accessible versions for disabled people of the Government Equalities Office consultation on the specific duties under the Equality Act 2010 she plans to produce; and if she will make a statement; [50441]

(2) when the Government Equalities Office plans to produce an easy-read accessible version of its consultation on the specific duties under the Equality Act 2010; and if she will make a statement. [50442]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 1 April 2011]:* Previous documents on the public sector Equality Duty have been produced in 'easy read' format and are available in alternative formats on request. The policy review paper will also be published in this format next week. This version will focus on explaining the changes to the specific duties.

Any reasonable request for alternative accessible formats, such as Braille or large font, which are made to the Government Equalities Office, will be considered.

Equality Duty

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) how much was spent from the public purse on consultation on the public sector equality duty draft specific duties regulations which took place between August and November 2010; [50003]

(2) how much staff time was spent on the consultation on the public sector equality duty draft specific duties regulations which took place between August and November 2010; [50004]

(3) what the cost to the public purse was of preparing the draft specific duties regulations published by the Government Equalities Office on 12 January 2011; [50005]

(4) how much staff time was spent on the draft specific duties regulations published by the Government Equalities Office on 12 January 2011; [50006]

(5) if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of consultation on the policy review paper on proposals for draft specific duties regulations announced on 17 March 2011; [50007]

(6) if she will estimate the amount of staff time which will be spent on the consultation on the policy review paper on proposals for draft specific duties regulations announced on 17 March 2011. [50008]

Lynne Featherstone: Since June 2010, work to implement the public sector Equality Duty—including developing and consulting on the draft specific duties regulations, compiling the list of public bodies to which the Equality Duty should apply, and drafting guidance for public bodies on complying with the Equality Duty—has been the main task for a team of three policy officials, and about 50% of the work of a Government lawyer.

It is not possible to provide an exact breakdown of the staff time devoted to the each of the tasks identified in the questions.

In addition to staff costs, publishing the August 2010 consultation document cost £12,500. The draft regulations and the policy review paper were only published on-line, so incurred no additional costs.

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with *(a)* representatives of equality organisations and *(b)* public sector bodies on her decision to re-draft and re-consult on the specific duties of the Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duty. [51251]

Mrs May: As Minister for Women and Equalities I meet regularly with equality organisations and public sector bodies to discuss a number of issues.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate the Government Equalities Office has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the change in function of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [48765]

Lynne Featherstone: Changes to the functions of the Equality and Human Rights Commission are one element of the proposed reform plans for the Commission, as set out in the consultation document published on 22 March.

We estimate that our reforms of the Commission will result in total savings of £84 million over the period to the end of the spending review (2014-15).

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Visits Abroad

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many visits overseas have been undertaken by members of the Equality and Human Rights Commission since its establishment; who travelled on each visit; whom they met; what the purpose was of each visit; and what the total cost was of each of these visits. [52471]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (The Commission) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The Commission undertakes overseas travel as required by its mandate as a National Equality Body and National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), for example, to attend meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The number of overseas visits undertaken by board members or staff of the Commission since its establishment and the total cost of these visits is in the following table:

	Number of trips	*Total cost of trips (£)*	*Actual cost incurred by the Commission (after reimbursements[1]) (£)*
October 2007 to March 2008	16	16,500	—
April 2008 to March 2009	46	32,938	—
April 2009 to March 2010	65	34,701	—
April 2010 to March 2011	57	29,768	14,884
Total	184	113,907	—

[1] A substantial proportion (estimated at around 50%) of these overseas travel costs are covered by the meeting organisers, and are then reimbursed to the Commission (for example from the European Commission, the Commonwealth Institute, the Council of Europe). Exact figures of reimbursement are only available from 2010/11. Figures for earlier years, and details of individual visits as requested in the question, are available only at disproportionate cost.

Equality Duty: Public Sector

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether the decision to re-draft and re-consult on the specific duties as part of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 has been discussed by the Inter-Ministerial Group on Equalities. [51742]

Lynne Featherstone: The Inter-Ministerial Group on Equalities meets quarterly to review progress on equality and implementation of Government's Equality Strategy, published on 2 December 2011. In order to enable a free exchange of views between Ministers, details of discussion are not published.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which public bodies with a remit which includes issues related to women and equalities have been merged, reorganised or abolished since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [52138]

Lynne Featherstone: The Women's National Commission which had a remit

> "to make known to Government, by all possible means, the informed opinion of women,"

was closed in December 2010.

The Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board was closed in November 2010. It had a remit, which included women and equalities, to:

> improve the ability of unions to respond to the increasing diversity of the labour market, and to supply services geared to the needs of a diverse membership;
>
> capacity build for equality reps; and,
>
> develop support mechanisms for vulnerable workers.

All public bodies are expected to take the Gender Equality Duty and, since 5 April 2011, the Equality Duty into account as appropriate in their day-to-day work.

Equality Duty

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities when she plans to lay before Parliament regulations to provide for the new public sector equality duty. [46875]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government intend to make a commencement order bringing the equality duty into force on 5 April 2011.

Following further consideration of the draft specific duties regulations published on 12 January 2011, I have published today a policy review paper inviting comments by 21 April 2011 on new draft specific duties regulations designed to ensure that public bodies consider equality when carrying out their functions without imposing unnecessary burdens and bureaucracy.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the cost was of the visit by the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to the headquarters of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna on 14 March 2011; who else participated in the visit; what the purpose of the visit was; what the mode, class and cost of travel was; and what the cost of accommodation used was. [52472]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The total cost for the Commission's visit to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) on 14 March 2011 was £1,918.18.

The following six staff participated in the visit (in addition to the chair): Director of Foresight; Director of Research; Head of Social Analysis and Foresight; Head of Research; Head of European and International Policy; and Senior Social Analyst.

The purpose of the visit was a learning exchange seminar hosted by the FRA for staff of both organisations. Its primary objective was to make links, share insights and learn from each other's work.

The chair and all Commission staff travelled by air in economy class.

The total cost of travel was £1,183.16. The total cost of accommodation was £735.02.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the redevelopment of the former MG Rover site at Longbridge of his proposals for disposal of land and property owned by Advantage West Midlands on the site; [51728]

(2) what plans he has for the future ownership of land and property owned by Advantage West Midlands on the former MG Rover site at Longbridge; and if he will make a statement. [51729]

Mr Prisk: Each regional development agency, including Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has developed a detailed plan for the disposal and treatment of its assets and liabilities and scrutiny of these is on going. We have agreed aspects of AWM's assets and liabilities plan and we are still in discussions about others, including the future of Longbridge. However, disposals will be made in a way that secures best value for the taxpayer and minimises costs. It will be for the AWM to set out a strategy for disposing of individual sites and assets.

Animal Experiments: Cosmetics

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what scientific advice he has received on the alternative testing techniques available to the cosmetics industry following the introduction of the prohibition on the testing of cosmetic products on animals in 2013. [50128]

Mr Davey: The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of the use of animals in Research (NC3Rs)—an organisation funded by the Department—provides scientific input to policy on the development of alternative techniques for the testing of cosmetic products on animals.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what representations he has received from representatives of the cosmetics industry on the preparedness of that industry for the prohibition on the testing of cosmetic products on animals in 2013; [50129]

(2) what representations he has made to the European Commission on the implementation in 2013 of the seventh amendment to Council Directive 76/768/EEC and Regulation (EC) No 1223/200 on the testing of cosmetics on animals. [50136]

Mr Davey: I have not received representations from the cosmetics industry, neither have I made representations to the European Commission on the subject.

Apprentices: City of Chester

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were participating in apprenticeship schemes in City of Chester constituency *(a)* in April 2010 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [51157]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of learners participating on an apprenticeship programme on 1 April 2010, and 1 January 2011 in the City of Chester parliamentary constituency.

Table 1: Apprenticeship participation in the City of Chester constituency, 1 April 2010 and 1 January 2011.

City of Chester constituency	*Number of participants*
Participation on 1 April 2010	380
Participation on 1 January 2011	460

Notes:
1. All Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

The participation figures in this table show the number of apprentices in learning on the given dates. However, to ensure consistency and clarity, for comparative purposes we use the number of people starting an apprenticeship over the full academic year.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage small and medium-sized businesses in Pendle constituency to take on apprentices; what recent representations he has received on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [50962]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) is working closely with employers and others to increase the number of apprenticeships in the Pennine and East Lancashire area. For example: working with the Chamber of Commerce in East Lancashire hosting breakfast briefings to increase awareness; and working with CXL, Jobcentre Plus and Enterprise 4 All, promoting apprenticeships to Asian and minority ethnic businesses across Lancashire.

Nationally, Government are focusing on making it easier for small and medium-enterprises (SMEs) in particular to take on new apprentices and recently announced a new £75 million programme of training and other targeted support focused specifically on SMEs to help them access advanced and higher level apprenticeships.

Arts: Research

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the Arts and Humanities Research Council on strategic research priorities in the last 12 months. [50927]

Mr Willetts: Three meetings have taken place between Ministers and the Research Council chief executives since May. These included an introductory meeting with the Research Councils, and the growth and spending reviews. Officials have held numerous meetings with the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the past year. These covered issues relating to governance and sponsorship, and discussions around the spending review.

Business Regulation

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the benefit to businesses employing fewer than 10 people and start-ups of reduced administrative burdens and compliance costs arising from the moratorium exempting such businesses from new domestic regulations for the next three years. [51558]

Mr Prisk: There are 4.6 million micro businesses in the UK and we know that when new regulations are introduced, it can take these businesses a disproportionate amount of time and effort to interpret, understand and comply with them.

The moratorium is intended to give micro businesses and start-ups breathing space from the constant flow of new domestic regulations and requirements. Combined with other measures announced in the Budget, such as improving regulatory guidance on Business Link and improving regulatory enforcement, we believe that the time and cost savings for micro businesses will be considerable.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officers of his Department since his appointment. [52004]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not issued any ministerial directions to the accounting officer of the Department since his appointment.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and at what cost to his Department in each such year. [49309]

Mr Davey: The number of early retirements in each year from 2006-07 to 2010-11 is given in the following table. Early retirements give rise to costs spread over a number of years. The table shows the total, multi-year cost associated with the early retirements that occurred in each year.

Staff can retire or be retired early in the circumstances prescribed by the Civil Service Management Code. There is only a cost to the Department where an enhanced early retirement package is provided under the Civil Services Compensation Scheme.

		2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
FER or CER	Staff	14	97	16	18	55
	Cost	1,808,618	14,007,013	2,019,297	2,890,342	6,084,767
AER	Staff	1	1	0	0	147
	Cost	12,780	11,626	0	0	14,727,882

Departmental Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings his Department has had with *(a)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England, *(b)* Universities UK, *(c)* the Qualifications and Assessment Authority and *(d)* the Confederation of British Industry in each month since 1 January 2011. [51566]

Mr Willetts: I, my ministerial colleagues and the Permanent Secretary have had the following meetings with these organisations:

	January	*February*	*March*	*April*
HEFCE	4	3	11	0
UUK	0	0	1	0
QAA	0	0	0	0
CBI	5	1	3	5

In addition there will have been other meetings with these organisations and departmental officials, which are not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Enterprise Zones

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the evidence taken into account in the determination of the locations of the first 10 proposed enterprise zones announced in the 2011 Budget. [49423]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Budget announced the first 11 local enterprise partnerships, outside London, which will host enterprise Zones. These were selected by clear criteria. Six of the 10 LEPs were selected on the basis that they encompass one or more of England's largest cities, ranked by population. The remaining four LEPs were selected on the basis of need, using the published location criteria that are used to assess bids to the Regional Growth Fund.

Economic Development in London is uniquely devolved. Government will therefore work with the Mayor of London to develop an EZ for London. Government will also work with the devolved Administrations to explore opportunities for developing enterprise zones across the UK.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what net change in the number of businesses he expects to be attributable to the introduction of enterprise zones. [51559]

Mr Prisk: Local areas are being asked to submit their bids with the aim to maximise business creation/growth and job creation. These bids will be assessed on their ability to drive this and create as many new businesses as is possible.

An accurate number of the net change of businesses is not possible to supply at this stage as business rate discounts do not necessarily have a bearing as to the number of new businesses created. Other factors, such as the type of business and floor space, will also determine the level of business rate due.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates prior to the 2011 Budget Statement *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department discussed with (i) local authorities and (ii) local enterprise partnerships designation of areas as an enterprise zone. [51952]

Mr Prisk: Discussions with both representatives from local authorities and local enterprise partnerships were handled by officials in the run up to the Budget. Ministers were not directly involved with the discussions but were kept informed.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date each relevant *(a)* local authority and *(b)* local enterprise partnership was informed officially by his Department prior to the announcement of the 2011 Budget that its area had been selected as an enterprise zone. [51982]

Mr Prisk: Discussions with both representatives from local authorities and local enterprise partnerships were handled by officials in the run up to the Budget and they were informed of the decisions shortly before the Budget announcement. Ministers were not directly involved with the discussions but were kept informed.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the criteria local enterprise partnerships should consider in putting forward bids for the second tranche of enterprise zone awards. [52031]

Mr Prisk: The exact detail of the criteria that will be used to assess bids to host the second tranche of enterprise zones are still being developed. However Government have made clear that a key focus of the new enterprise zones will be around economic growth and job creation.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which Office of National Statistics standard geographical areas are to be covered by those enterprise zones with confirmed locations. [52142]

Mr Prisk: At present four enterprise zones sites have been confirmed, these are:

Liverpool—Wirral Waters
Manchester—Airport City
Nottingham—Boots Campus
London—Royal Docks

The exact boundaries for these enterprise zones have still to be confirmed.

EU External Trade: India

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* non-governmental organisations, *(b)* trade associations and *(c)* charities Ministers in his Department have met to discuss the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and India. [51127]

Mr Davey: The Department's Ministers have met with a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA). These include those from trade associations, charities, and non-governmental organisations who have an interest in the FTA overall. In recent months this has included The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Limited and Tear Fund. In addition, officials regularly meet with a range of stakeholders who have an interest in the FTA.

Executives: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to promote mentoring and sponsorship of women in the (*a*) private and (*b*) public sector in order to increase the number of female senior executives. [51129]

Mr Davey: The Government welcome the review being undertaken by Lord Davies of Abersoch into women on boards, which recommends the consolidation and improvement of training provision for the development of potential board members for listed UK companies, including mentoring and sponsorship, and will be working with companies, business organisations and academia to encourage them to do so.

The Government have set an aspiration that by the end of the Parliament at least half of all new appointees being made to the boards of public bodies will be women, and will shortly set out their action plan to achieve this aim.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to encourage public companies to have a gender-balanced boardroom. [51134]

Mr Davey: The Government strongly welcome the review being undertaken by Lord Davies of Abersoch into women on boards which was published in February. We are working with the Financial Reporting Council, who will shortly launch a consultation on proposed amendments to the Corporate Governance Code, and with executive search firms, who will soon launch a Voluntary Code of Conduct covering search criteria and processes for FTSE 350 board appointments.

In addition we are working with key stakeholders, including chairmen, company secretaries, academia and business representative organisations to encourage companies to adopt other measures set out by Lord Davies of Abersoch in his business-led strategy, including publishing aspirational targets for the number of women on their boards in 2013 and 2015.

Further Education: Higher Education

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to increase the number of higher education places offered in further education colleges. [51882]

Mr Willetts: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 687W to my hon. Friend the Member for Crawley (Henry Smith).

Graduates: Manufacturing Industries

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to take steps to raise the profile among graduates of the process and manufacturing industry. [51508]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 307W. We began discussion at the Manufacturing summit on the scope for promoting manufacturing careers to graduates.

Health: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on proposals for the future commissioning of pre-registration, post-registration and continuous professional development healthcare courses in universities; and if he will make a statement. [52284]

Mr Willetts: My officials and I are working very closely with our colleagues in the Department of Health on issues which affect both the higher education and health sectors, as they take policy and funding decisions. BIS officials participate in the Health Education National Strategic Exchange which considers such issues, including the provision of health education courses and workforce planning.

Higher Education: Access

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations he has received on his plans to improve access to university for those from disadvantaged backgrounds in each month since 1 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51568]

Mr Willetts: Our records show that the Department has received the following numbers of parliamentary questions and general correspondence that relate to improving access to university for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

	January	*February*	*March*
Parliamentary questions	9	15	53
Correspondence	5	3	13

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings he has held with external bodies to discuss universities which have not met the access benchmarks agreed with the Office of Fair Access in each month since 1 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51570]

Mr Willetts: No meetings have been held with outside bodies to discuss access benchmarks.

Each year the Higher Education Statistics Agency publishes performance indicators and benchmarks in relation to access that have been developed by the UK HE sector.

Any institution wishing to charge above £6,000 from 2012 will have to have in place an access agreement approved by the director of Fair Access. In guidance issued by the director to the sector on 8 March he made clear that he expected all institutions to establish their own indicators and benchmarks as part of new access agreements.

Higher Education: Business

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings his Department had with representatives of the business community to discuss the relationship between universities and business in each month of 2011. [51804]

Mr Willetts: All BIS Ministers and many of its officials are engaged in frequent meetings with representatives of the business community. The link between universities and business often forms a regular part of such meetings, to discuss training, research, skills, innovation or enterprise issues.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings his Department had with senior university staff to discuss the relationship between universities and business in each month of 2011. [51805]

Mr Willetts: BIS meets regularly with a wide range of senior university staff and officials from across the HE sector, including HEFCE, UUK, GuildHE, UCAS and the UKCES. The relationship between universities and business often forms part of such meetings when discussing training, research, skills, innovation or enterprise issues.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings his Department had with senior staff of regional development agencies to discuss the relationship between universities and business in each month of 2011. [51806]

Mr Prisk: This Department did not have any meetings in 2011 with senior staff of regional development agencies (RDA) specifically to discuss the relationship between universities and business.

However in each of January and March 2011 BIS officials took part in the regular two-monthly meetings of the Regional Innovation Science and Technology Group (RIST). Membership of this group includes the RDA Innovation leads, BIS officials, and staff from TSB, RCUK and HEFCE. The meetings discuss a range of innovation issues. Collaboration at regional and local level between businesses and universities are an integral part of the agenda.

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he will permit higher education courses currently delivered by further education colleges funded by a university to be funded directly by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [51881]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is legally responsible for funding individual institutions. Ministers have no role in the process. Currently the council directly funds 124 of the 249 FE colleges in England. We are though seeking to encourage new providers, including FE colleges, into the system. When the new funding system is introduced in 2012/13 funding will follow the informed choices of students rather than direct grant. Where colleges and other providers are able to offer high quality programmes at a price which offers good value for money, we would wish to see them able to expand. We will consult after any proposals on this are announced in the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

Sustainable Growth

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to page 26 of the Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth strategy, what the evidential basis is for the assumption that one student place on the apprenticeships programme is equivalent to three Train to Gain places. [51483]

Mr Hayes: I will respond to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

The broad assumption that one student place on an apprenticeships programme is equivalent to three Train to Gain places derives from the following information.

The Skills Funding Agency Funding Guidance (see following) states that an apprenticeship takes on average twice the Guided Learning Hours of a Train to Gain place. In addition, apprenticeship courses include a number of additional elements, which together with provider uplifts as described in the Funding Guidance, result in apprenticeship student places being about three times the cost of Train to Gain places.

Courses can be fully funded by the Department or co-funded between the Department and the employer/learner.

The funding guidance for apprenticeships and Train to Gain can be found at the following addresses:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/ApprenticeshiFunding_Requirements_2010_11-v2_October.pdf

http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/ttg_funding_requirements_2010_11-v2_october.pdf

Neurology

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects of measures set out in The Plan for Growth on neuroscience research in the UK. [52486]

Mr Willetts: The Plan for Growth set out the Government's plans to put the UK on a path to sustainable, long-term economic growth. For the health and life sciences sector, which includes neuroscience and other medical research and development, measures in the Plan for Growth include streamlining regulation and improving the cost effectiveness of clinical trials, forming new translational research partnerships and ensuring educators provide skilled individuals the sector needs to grow.

Neuroscience research will continue to be supported both by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), where strategically relevant, and by the Medical Research Council (MRC).

One North East

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ensure that the expertise built up by specialists working in One North East is retained in the North East. [51503]

Mr Prisk: Where we have identified the need for continuing functions, arrangements are being put in place to ensure ONE staff are transferred so that expertise is retained in the north-east. We are also working with ONE to ensure their knowledge assets are managed effectively and that useful knowledge is transferred or made available to relevant bodies, including those in the north-east.

Post Office Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential to provide Government services through Post Office essentials branches. [51108]

Mr Davey: The Post Office Ltd is currently piloting Post Office Locals in some 60 locations across the UK, with plans to extend piloting activity this year.

Details of the precise Government services that will be offered through the final model will be a matter for the Post Office Ltd, using learning from current and future pilots. Recent research by Consumer Focus shows that over 95% of customer transactions by volume are already available in Post Office Local pilots—for example the collection of pensions and benefits.

Post Office Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which Post Office financial services are not offered by a Post Office essentials service. [51101]

Mr Davey: Post Office Ltd is currently piloting Post Office Locals in some 60 locations across the UK, with plans to extend piloting activity this year.

Details of the precise financial services that will be offered through the final model will be a matter for Post Office Ltd, using learning from current and future pilots. Recent research by Consumer Focus shows that over 95% of total customer transactions by volume are already available in Post Office Local pilots—for example chip and pin cash deposits and withdrawals and postal orders.

Postal Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* packets, *(b)* parcels and *(c)* large letters were posted in the UK in each of the last five years. [51111]

Mr Davey: There is no definitive source for this information. Royal Mail handles 68 million items of mail per day (small letters, large letters and parcels). The wider market for parcels has been fully deregulated since 1981 so is consequently difficult to measure. Postcomm valued the postal market at £11.4 billion in 2008.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ensure that the minimum requirements of the universal service obligation under the provisions of the Postal Services Bill 2010 are maintained at current levels for a period of not less than five years. [52438]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to securing the universal postal service for everyone in the UK. This objective is at the heart of the Postal Services Bill.

The minimum requirements of the universal service are clearly set out in the Bill, which also puts in place new and stronger protections around the level of the universal service than are currently the case.

The minimum requirements enshrined in the Bill are the same as we currently enjoy under existing legislation, with the addition of a free service for blind and partially sighted people. We have repeatedly confirmed that we have no intention of reducing these minimum requirements.

Postgraduate Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations he has received on the future of postgraduate *(a)* taught and *(b)* research degrees in each week since 1 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51567]

Mr Willetts: I and my ministerial colleagues regularly meet with stakeholders and receive letters on the future of postgraduate taught and research degrees. I have recently asked Professor Sir Adrian Smith to reconvene his Postgraduate Review Panel to look at the issue of taught postgraduate degrees.

The Government are committed to Britain being a world leading place to do research. This is why, despite enormous pressure on public spending, the overall level of funding for science and research programmes has been protected in cash terms within a ring-fenced budget.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 692W, on regional development agencies: assets, on what dates the meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials had with (i) the Department for Communities and Local Government and (ii) HM Treasury on the options for disposal of assets owned by regional development agencies took place. [52441]

Mr Prisk: Officials have had weekly and sometimes twice weekly, meetings with both the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and HM Treasury (HMT) to discuss the regional development agencies' proposals for disposing and transferring their assets and liabilities. The subject of asset disposal is also discussed at the fortnightly National Transition Board on which both DCLG and HMT are regular members.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 692W, on regional development agencies: assets, on what dates and at what times he met *(a)* the chief executives and *(b)* staff of each regional development agency (RDA) on their proposals for the disposal of assets held by each RDA. [52442]

Mr Prisk: I, and my officials, have had eight meetings with the Chairs of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), discussing all related matters concerning the closure of the RDAs. The officials also have regular meetings with the chief executives and staff working on the closure of their RDAs. Three RDA chief executives sit as members of the National Transition Board. All matters concerning the transition to closure of the RDAs, including asset disposal, are discussed in the above.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1119W on regional development agencies: finance, whether he has identified assets which would potentially be suitable for transfer from regional development agencies to the Homes and Communities Agency. [51623]

Mr Prisk: Coalfields assets and liabilities will transfer to the Homes and Communities Agency. The disposal of other land and property assets, deemed not suitable for short-term market sale, is still being reviewed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the regional development agencies.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 2.159 of The Plan for Growth, what assessment he has made of the likely effect of capping the impact of levy-funded support on energy bills on the availability of funding for small and medium scale renewables. [52020]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

HM Treasury has responsibility for setting the overall cap for DECC's tax and spending through policies that entail levy-funded spending, balancing the support needed to meet the Government's energy objectives with the need to minimise energy bill increases for consumers.

DECC has responsibility for managing their levy-funded spending policies such that they remain within the cap. It is therefore for DECC to determine the split of funding between and within policies, including the availability of funding for the support of small and medium-scale renewables.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 2.159 of The Plan for Growth, which levies are to be affected by the proposal on the impact of levy-funded support on energy bills. [52021]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The new control framework for DECC levy-funded spending covers the Renewables Obligation, Feed-In Tariffs and Warm Home Discount, to help ensure that, they achieve their objectives cost effectively and affordably. These policies are classified as tax and spend for National Accounts purposes. They operate by placing an obligation on energy companies to provide support to certain activities or groups.

Research: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations he has received on the future of research funding in each month since 1 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51569]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I have received representations on the future of research funding. This Government recognise the importance of research funding to the UK. That is why this Government are committed to investment in science and research as a major driver of economic growth—with a flat-cash, ring-fenced settlement for science and research funding of £4.6 billion pa for 2011-15.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* other organisations on the setting of targets for the proportion of gross domestic product spent on research and development. [52436]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State has not had discussions with neither his EU counterparts nor other organisations on the setting of targets for the proportion of gross domestic product spent on research and development.

Science

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the long-term plan for science for 2016 onwards. [52480]

Mr Willetts: The coalition Government's long-term vision for science was published alongside their plans for science funding up to 2011-15 in December 2010.

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria he used to determine that his plan for science funding was sufficiently long-term in nature. [52479]

Mr Willetts: Resource funding was protected with a flat-cash, ring-fenced settlement for 2011-15 providing long-term stability and certainty to the research base. Key capital projects have been funded including the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI), Diamond and the Birth Cohort Study. An additional investment announced in the budget of £100 million in science investment projects, including ISIS, the International Space Innovation Centre and national research campuses, will develop infrastructure at national research campuses. These investments will protect national capability, maintain international competitiveness and maximise the economic and social benefits of research over many years.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 509, on science and research, what time period constitutes the long term in the context of his plans for science funding. [52483]

Mr Willetts: The coalition Government's long-term vision for science was published alongside its plans for science funding up to 2011 to 2015 in December 2010.

Resource funding was protected with a flat-cash, ring-fenced settlement for 2011 to 2015 providing long-term stability and certainty to the research base. Key capital projects have been funded including the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI), Diamond and the Birth Cohort Study. An additional investment announced in the budget of £100 million in science investment projects, including ISIS, the International Space Innovation Centre and national research campuses, will develop infrastructure at national research campuses. These investments will protect national capability, maintain international competitiveness and maximise the economic and social benefits of research over many years.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the international ranking of the UK for science funding measured *(a)* in absolute terms and *(b)* as a proportion of gross domestic product in each of the next five years; and what estimate he has made of the likely effects of public sector funding for science on private sector funding in each such year. [52492]

Mr Willetts: It is not possible to make an estimate for other countries as we do not have access to their funding plans for the next five years on a comparable basis to the UK. The OECD publish retrospective data on science funding by country.

The UK's research base is world class: second in the world only to the USA for number of citations, and the most productive in the G8. The ring-fenced flat cash science and research funding together the £100 million additional capital investment announced in the Budget will protect national capability, maintain international competitiveness and maximise the economic and social benefits of research over many years.

Students: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings his Department has had on the creation of a fund to allow the allocation of student places to for-profit institutions since his appointment. [51548]

Mr Willetts: The Department has not held meetings to discuss the creation of a fund to allow the allocation of student places to for-profit institutions. However, the Department is considering how student number controls might apply in the future regulatory system, including options for a fund to support expansion of those providers which best offer students high-quality programmes at a price that represents good value. We will consult after any proposals are announced in the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

Supermarkets

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he has had since September 2010 with representatives of *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* Sainsbury's, *(c)* Asda, *(d)* Morrisons and *(e)* trade associations of which these companies are members. [52210]

Mr Prisk: Since September 2010, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has met with Tesco on 8 September 2010 and attended the British Retail Consortium parliamentary reception on 2 November 2010, at which representatives of at least one of the companies referred to were present.

Technology

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much his Department has spent on the development of the East London Tech City to date; [51577]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the development of the East London Tech City initiative; and if he will make a statement; [51578]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs attributable to the East London Tech City initiative; [51579]

(4) what financial incentives he plans to put in place to attract investment to the East London Tech City area; [51580]

(5) how many companies have notified his Department of a commitment to locate in the East London Tech City; [51607]

(6) what estimate he has made of the level of investment committed to businesses in the East London Tech City area subsequent to the announcement of the East London Tech City initiative. [51608]

Mr Prisk: The Shoreditch area of east London already hosts 200 high-tech companies. The initiative announced by the Prime Minister on 4 November 2010 is aimed at promoting the development of Tech City further as a world-leading tech cluster and, as a result, so far over a dozen leading companies and universities have committed to investing in Tech City.

I have made no recent assessment of the jobs attributable to this initiative, and the Department is not offering any financial incentives specific to Tech City. However, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has established the Tech City Investment Organisation (TCIO) to co-ordinate its efforts to promote east London's Tech City as a location for high-tech investments.

This will include engaging further with the above mentioned companies to turn their commitment into tangible investments, and engaging with a second wave of companies to do the same; putting together propositions for the best non-UK venture capital firms and business angels to encourage them to focus on deals in the UK and to expand their operations in the UK; and identifying experienced entrepreneurs and business people to take up roles as mentors or non-executive directors to help the development of early stage companies and beyond.

The TCIO is made up of four experienced entrepreneurs, four UKTI business specialists and four other UKTI officials. Project meetings are convened at No 10 on a weekly basis to review progress against TCIO's delivery plan.

Technology Strategy Board: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been allocated to the Technology Strategy Board for each of the next three years. [51268]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board's budget for 2011/12 is £317 million, which includes funding for Technology and Innovation Centres and to deliver a national grant for research and development (R and D) scheme. We cannot be specific on future year allocations, but it will be of the order of £300 million pa resulting in support worth over £1 billion in business-led R and D over the spending review period.

Vocational Guidance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the sum that his Department plans to contribute to the new all-age careers service. [52030]

Mr Hayes: As Minister with responsibilities for careers services in both the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education I have had regular discussions about the new careers service with my ministerial colleagues in both Departments. I hope to be able to confirm the level of funding for the careers service soon.

EDUCATION

Academies: Admissions

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department has issued to academies on their admissions policy. [51747]

Mr Gibb: Each Academy has a contract with the Secretary of State that sets out its admissions duties. Academies are required to have an admissions policy and arrangements which comply with admissions law, the School Admissions Code and the Admission Appeals Code.

When a new academy is established, officials will work with it in order to ensure its admission arrangements comply with the Code. Other than this, the guidance which the Department issues to academies is the same as that issued to maintained schools: the School Admissions Code and the Admissions Appeal Code.

Better Communication Action Plan

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the commissioning of services under the Better Communication Action Plan will include services for children requiring communication aids; and if he will make a statement. [51313]

Sarah Teather: The Department of Health recently published commissioning tools that were produced as part of the Better Communication Action Plan. In addition, the recently published 'Green Paper, Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability—A consultation', includes proposals to bring commissioning of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), which enables some children to communicate, within the scope of NHS commissioning. Subject to parliamentary approval, the commissioning of highly specialised services, including AAC, will become a core responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board. In the meantime, we will be supporting a new round of grants to organisations in this field in 2011-12.

Boarding Schools: Disabled

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many disabled children were living in a residential school or care home on the most recent date for which figures are available. [51723]

Tim Loughton: The number of looked after children who were recorded as being in need of services due to their disability and were living in a residential school or care home on the most recent date for which figures are available is shown in the following table.

Children looked after at 31 March owing to disability[1,2,3]; year ending 31 March 2010, coverage: England

	Number
All children looked after at 31 March owing to disability[3]	2,200
Residential schools	560
Care Homes[4]	700
Other placements[5]	900

[1] Numbers above 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100, otherwise to the nearest 10.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[3] Looked after children are only known to be disabled if this is reported as their primary reason for being looked after. Some children may have come into care for another reason, but also have a disability.
[4] Care homes comprise of the following: Secure Units, Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations, Residential care homes and NHS Trusts providing medical/nursing care.
[5] Other placements where children with a disability were accommodated, include: Foster placements, Placed with parents, Placed for adoption, Living independently, Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations, Family centre or mother and baby unit, Young offenders institution or prison and Other placements (unspecified).
Source:
SSDA 903

Brighton and Hove

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department were available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; how much was available in such grants; how many such grants were made; and how much was awarded in such grants. [51843]

Mr Gibb: Tables giving details of the ring-fenced revenue grants allocated by the Department to Brighton and Hove city council for each year since 2007-08 are provided in the following tables. The tables include the type of grant and the amount awarded to the council in each year.

There were 39 ring-fenced revenue grants available to Brighton and Hove council in 2007-08, 33 in 2008-09; 36 in 2009-10; and 29 in 2010-11.

Ring-fenced grants to Brighton and Hove council—2007-08

Revenue Grant	*Allocations (£)*
Dedicated Schools Grant	117,598,000
School Development Grant	6,525,016
General Sure Start Grant	4,567,367

Ring-fenced grants to Brighton and Hove council—2007-08

Revenue Grant	*Allocations (£)*
School Standards Grant	4,442,458
School Standards Grant (Personalisation)	1,488,719
Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy	537,790
Targeted Support for Primary Strategy	529,746
14-19 Engagement Programme	435,000
Extended Schools	417,688
Music Services	330,580
Parenting Early Intervention Pilots	287,558
Budget Holding Lead Professional Pilot	275,000
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG)	274,569
Targeted School Meals Grant	196,663
Transition Information Sessions: Demonstration Projects	166,350
ContactPoint	166,054
Playing for Success (DfES grant only)	161,668
Youth Taskforce	150,000
Youth Opportunity Fund	140,880
Parenting in Areas delivering the Respect Programme	125,000
Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding	108,242
Devolved School Meals Grant	96,723
Music at Key Stage 2	94,247
Computers for Pupils: Recurrent	52,300
Parenting Practitioner Grant	50,000
School Intervention Grant	48,600
Additional Parenting Practitioner Grant	30,000
Choice Advisers	28,472
Regional School Travel Advisers	22,200
School Improvement Partners (SIPs)	20,730
Parenting Support Strategy Grant	16,546
General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School	16,236
Aiming Higher for Disabled Children	15,000
Targeted Improvement Grant	14,500
Extended Rights for Free Travel	14,163
Care Matters	14,000
Aimhigher: 2007/08 First two terms	14,000
Walking to School Initiatives	9,000
Aimhigher: 2006/07 Final Term	7,000
Transition Information Sessions: Capacity	1,878
Total	139,489,943

Ring-fenced grants to Brighton and Hove council—2008-09

Revenue Grant	*Allocations (£)*
Dedicated Schools Grant	122,581,000
School Development Grant	6,643,750
Sure Start, Early Years and Child Care	5,484,683
School Standards Grant	4,536,210
School Standards Grant (Personalisation)	1,435,536
Secondary Strategy: Targeted Support	684,998
Primary Strategy: Targeted Support	670,278
Music	425,580
National Challenge	412,500
Targeted Mental Health in Schools	382,000
Parenting Support Strategy Grant	320,000
School Lunch Grant	316,267
Short Breaks (AHDC)	306,300
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	302,162
Extended Schools-Sustainability	283,020
KS4 Engagement Programme	272,100
Playing for Success (DCSF grant only)	160,000
ContactPoint	152,172
Entry 2 Learning Pilots	146,900
Youth Opportunity Fund	140,900
Family Intervention Projects	121,856
Consortia funding	120,000
Challenge and Support Funding	100,000
1-2-1 Tuition and Participation KS2 early roll-out	68,234
Youth Crime Action Plan Grant	65,000
Parenting Practitioner Grant	50,000
Diploma Grant	35,112
Teenage Parent Supported Housing	26,000
Friday and Saturday Night Activities Grant	25,000
Aimhigher: 2008/09 First Two Terms	17,500
Targeted Improvement Grant	12,000
Information System for Parents and Providers	11,000
Aimhigher: 2007/08 Final Term	7,000
Total	146,315,058

Ring-fenced grants to Brighton and Hove council—2009-10

Revenue Grant	*Allocations (£)*
Dedicated Schools Grant	127,734,000
School Development Grant	6,998,534
Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant	6,372,256
School Standards Grant	4,664,141
School Standards Grant (Personalisation)	1,483,839
Aiming High for Disabled Children (SSEYCG)	863,900
Targeted Support for Primary Strategy	830,127
Think Family Grant	819,299
Entry 2 Learning Pilots	719,703
1-2-1 Tuition	530,764
Extended Schools—Sustainability	522,536
National Challenge	456,050
Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy	435,060
Total Music Allocation	426,880
Ethnic Minority Achievement (EMAG)	336,082
Early Years: Extending and increasing flexibility of free entitlement for 3-4 year olds	332,375
School Lunch Grant	310,126

Ring-fenced grants to Brighton and Hove council—2009-10

Revenue Grant	*Allocations (£)*
Targeted Mental Health in Schools	241,000
Teenage Parent Supported Housing	206,373
KS4 Engagement Programme	200,000
Consortia Support Grant	194,303
Youth Crime Action Plan Grant	169,680
Playing for Success (DCSF Grant)	160,000
ContactPoint	152,172
Youth Opportunity Fund	140,900
Extended Schools Subsidy	124,189
Diploma Formula Grant	78,681
Challenge and Support Funding	75,000
Targeted Improvement Grant	69,801
Community Service Programme Pilots	52,290
Fair Play Playbuilder	27,281
Tackling Alcohol Disorder Grant	20,000
Aimhigher; 2009/10 Second Term	13,166
14-19 Prospectus/CAP	11,333
Aimhigher: 2009/10 First Term	9,668
Aimhigher: 2008/09 Final Term	8,500
Total	155,790,009

Ring-fenced grants to Brighton and Hove council—2010-11

Revenue Grant	*Allocations (£)*
Dedicated Schools Grant	131,594,000
Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant	7,563,926
School Development Grant	7,063,581
School Standards Grant	4,671,519
School Standards Grant (Personalisation)	1,407,379
Early Years: extension of free entitlement	1,339,286
Primary Strategy: Targeted Support	1,311,648
1-2-1 Tuition	1,062,608
Aiming High for Disabled Children	894,730
Extended Schools–Sustainability	736,213
Extended Schools Subsidy	672,884
Secondary Strategy: Targeted Support	463,022
Music	428,287
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	349,715
National Challenge	313,000
School Lunch Grant	301,597
Playing for success (DfE grant only)	160,000
Targeted Mental Health in Schools	157,000
Foundation Learning at Key Stage 4	140,000
Local Delivery Support Grant	135,807
Diploma Formula Grant	91,373
ContactPoint	81,602
Youth Opportunity Fund	35,225
Targeted Improvement Grant	32,200
Aimhigher:2010/11 Second Term	18,399
14-19 Prospectus/CAP	11,333
Aimhigher: 2009/10 Final Term	11,166
Aimhigher: 2010/11 First Term	9,601
Total	161,057,101

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Leicester

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in the City of Leicester have received or will receive funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and what the level of funding is in each case. [42176]

Mr Gibb: The following table sets out the schools in the City of Leicester that have received funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme, and the level of funding for each school:

£

School	*Conventional funding including for ICT*	*PFI credits*
Soar Valley College	1,907,000	35,299,000
Beaumont Leys School	15,221,000	—
Fullhurst Community College	12,372,000	—
Judgemeadow Community College	1,740,000	27,934,000

In his announcement about schools capital on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 47-50, the Secretary of State confirmed that he would "continue to look at the scope of savings in all" BSF projects that are continuing. Partnerships for Schools has been following up this commitment, working closely with local authorities on a case-by-case basis to identify efficiencies.

All of the following schools will go through final allocation, subject to approval of a final business case:

School

The City of Leicester College
Crown Hills Community College
New City Centre School
Rushey Mead School
Sir Jonathan North Community College'
The Lancaster School
Moat Community College
Babington Community Technology College
English Martyrs Catholic School
Hamilton Community College
St Paul's Catholic School
New College Leicester
Fullhurst phase 2
Ash Field School
Ellesmere College
Keyham Lodge School
Millgate School
Nether Hall School
West Gate School
The Children's Hospital School
Soar Valley Vocational Centre
Millgate Lodge Specialist Learning Centre
The Newry Specialist Learning Centre
Carisbrooke Specialist Learning Centre
Coleman Specialist Learning Centre

Children in Care

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has targets for the performance of local authorities in relation to the handling of children who are taken into care. [51764]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not set targets in relation to children in care. Local authorities must operate within the framework of legislation and statutory guidance. Local authorities cannot remove children from their parents' care (unless this is with the parents' consent) without first referring the matter to a court.

Children in Care: Applications

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many care applications were made in England and Wales *(a)* in each month of (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010 and *(b)* January and February 2011. [51774]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of children made subject to a care application, in all tiers of court in England and Wales, for each month in 2009 and 2010.

	Number of care applications
January 2009	1,250
February 2009	1,360
March 2009	1,550
April 2009	1,380
May 2009	1,380
June 2009	1,650
July 2009	1,460
August 2009	1,270
September 2009	1,470
October 2009	1,410
November 2009	1,390
December 2009	1,520
January 2010	1,230
February 2010	1,380
March 2010	1,610
April 2010	1,200
May 2010	1,540
June 2010	1,300
July 2010	1,260
August 2010	1,580
September 2010	1,140
October 2010	1,490
November 2010	1,240
December 2010	1,060

Notes:

1. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

HMCS FamilyMan system and summary returns.

Comparisons between single months should be made with caution as the monthly figures are subject to more volatility than those covering longer time periods. Statistics on public law applications for England and Wales are published on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Justice in the National Statistics publication "Court Statistics Quarterly". Statistics for Q1 2011 are due to be published in the next edition on 30 June 2011, and will be available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-quarterly.htm

Children: Death

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children's deaths were recorded in an Ofsted significant incident report as resulting from suspected abuse and neglect in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [50750]

Tim Loughton: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 4 April 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

I refer you to my response dated 7 March 2011 to Parliamentary Question 044778:

"To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children's deaths were recorded in an Ofsted significant incident report as resulting from suspected (a) abuse and (b) neglect in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010."

In my response I explained that Ofsted does not hold 'significant incident reports'. However, Ofsted receives serious incident notifications from local authorities.

Data on the number of children's deaths owing to 'abuse' and 'neglect' in either serious incident notifications or serious childcare incident briefings for the period requested are not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

I provide more detail here to assist you. Serious incident notifications are made immediately after a serious incident, when it is not possible in the majority of cases to determine the exact cause of death or the possible contributory factors to the death. Such determination takes place at a later stage, as the result of post mortem or inquest processes. It would therefore be inappropriate for Ofsted staff to be asked to make judgements on these important issues in the light of information provided within the initial serious incident notifications.

For these reasons, Ofsted does not detail 'cause of death' on our database. In order to ascertain individual information about each serious incident, Ofsted staff would be required to investigate each serious incident notification by reading the initial information and forming a view based only on this information. Local authorities are not obliged to update the initial information to Ofsted. Any judgement about whether a death may have been as the result of abuse and/or neglect would therefore require too great a level of subjective judgement on the part of our staff, who are dependent on the depth of information known to, and submitted by, each local authority. Such a manual interrogation of any information held would also require a level of staff time which would, as stated above, incur disproportionate cost.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Tim Loughton MP, Minister for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children's Services: Nottingham

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what discussions he has had with Nottinghamshire County Council in 2011 on the adequacy of its children's services department in 2011; [51246]

(2) how many complaints his Department has received about children's services in Nottinghamshire in each of the last three years. [51208]

Tim Loughton: I issued an Improvement Notice to Nottinghamshire county council following Ofsted's inspection of their Safeguarding and Looked After

Children's Services in March 2010, which found their services to be "inadequate".

The Improvement Notice sets out the improvements the Council, with its partners, is required to make, and requires that the Council establish an independently chaired Improvement Board, to monitor progress and provide robust challenge. The chair of the Improvement Board provides regular reports to me on progress, and a representative from the Department sits on the Board.

An unannounced inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment services in Nottinghamshire council took place in February 2011. I subsequently wrote to the leader of the council to acknowledge the findings of the inspection report and the improvement Ofsted found.

The current Improvement Notice stipulates there will be a formal review of progress in July 2011, at which point I will take a view as to what action, if any, is necessary to secure further improvement. I will of course take into account any representations about children's services in Nottinghamshire and any complaints I have received by that point.

The specific information the hon. Member requests about complaints is not available in the format required and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Colchester Academy: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce his decision on capital funding for the Colchester Academy; and if he will make a statement. [22831]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) wrote to the hon. Member on 20 December 2010 to inform him of the capital allocation for the Colchester Academy.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51529]

Tim Loughton: Since May 2010, the Education Family (the Department for Education (DfE) and its Arms Length Bodies (ALB), has reduced by over 1,000 people as a result of the recruitment freeze and the ALB reform programme. The total number of people that have left the Department and its Arms Length Bodies is set out in the table below:

Name	*Staff Numbers May 2010*	*Staff Numbers March 2011*
Department for Education	2,622	2,605
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)	264	9
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	2,098	1,997
Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)	210	164
General Teaching Council for England (GTCE)	216	175
National College	367	326
Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)	26	27
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)	162	163
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)	1,945	1,615
Partnerships for Schools (PfS)	186	168
Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)	502	363
School Food Trust (SFT)	74	72
Training and Development Agency (TDA)	311	311
Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)	561	534
TOTAL	9,544	8,529

Further detail on reduction targets for the next two years is still to be worked out, but the Department and its ALBs expect to make further reductions during the next two financial years as some ALBs close and Agencies open. The Department is also anticipating year on year headcount reductions during the rest of the spending review period in order to meet its target to reduce administrative spend by 33%.

The Department hopes the majority of these reductions will be made through natural wastage, but given the timescales for ALB reform, some reductions may have to be made through targeted voluntary early releases (which will be in line with the Civil Service Compensation Scheme).

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51417]

Tim Loughton: 1,037 officials are currently provided with mobile communication devices within the Department for Education to meet their business requirements. During the previous financial year, April 2010 to March 2011, the Department spent £25,363 on the procurement of mobile telephones and £314,708.32 on associated rental, usage and data services (all costs exclude VAT).

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51391]

Tim Loughton: In 2010-11, the Department had a monthly vacancy rate of less than 1% of its average headcount of 2,588 and an annual turnover rate of 12.44%. The vast majority of its vacancies were filled internally, or by the redeployment of staff made surplus as a result of closing the Government Office Network.

The Department has not made any assumptions about either its vacancy or its turnover rate for 2011-12 but anticipate it will be broadly similar to 2010-11. The Department will continue to focus on the recruitment and redeployment challenges presented by our work to reduce the size of the Education Family Workforce (the Department and its arm's length bodies) and the creation of its new agencies.

Early Intervention Grant: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what percentage change he proposes to the Early Intervention Grant allocation for the London Borough of Newham in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [44966]

Sarah Teather: The Early Intervention Grant (EIG) is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream to enable local authorities to act more strategically and target investment early, where it will have greatest impact. In challenging times the Government are freeing local authorities to focus on essential frontline services, and to invest in early intervention and prevention to produce long-term savings and better results for children, young people and families.

The London borough of Newham's final EIG allocation for 2011-12 is £22,503,392 which represents a cash reduction of 12.5% based upon the 2010-11 allocation of the predecessor grants. The indicative EIG allocation for 2012-13 is £22,911,985 which represents a 1.8% cash increase on the 2011-12 EIG allocation.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 47W, on education maintenance allowance, what steps he plans to take to *(a)* monitor the effect of the replacement of education maintenance allowance with a targeted support payment and *(b)* evaluate any difference in effect between the two schemes. [51628]

Mr Gibb: Currently schools, colleges and training providers with an allocation of discretionary learner support funds are required to provide management information to the Young People's Learning Agency. We expect that this arrangement will continue for the 16-19 Bursary Fund, allowing us to monitor its introduction. In addition we are considering how best to evaluate the impact of the new arrangements.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of students in receipt of education maintenance allowance who will receive funding under the new bursary and discretionary payment system. [51082]

Mr Gibb: Around 315,000 young people currently in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA) will receive guaranteed support in 2011/12 as a result of the measures we announced on 28 March 2011. This represents around 90% of those currently in receipt of EMA who would have been expected to continue in education or training in 2011/12. Young people who are not covered by the transitional arrangements will be able to apply for support from their school, college or training provider through the discretionary element of the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the funding allocated to *(a)* the continuation of education maintenance allowance for some students and *(b)* discretionary learner support is to be transferred from any other project or scheme in his Department. [51084]

Mr Gibb: We have always had money set aside within the Department for Education budget for 16-19 financial support. As part of the budget discussions we agreed a call on Treasury reserves for a minority of the funding to help with the new 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he has allocated to the continuation of funding for the education maintenance allowance for those who commenced study in academic year 2010-11; and from which budget this funding was allocated. [51085]

Mr Gibb: We expect that the cost of making weekly payments of £20 to those young people who started post-16 study in 2010/11 and are currently in receipt of the maximum weekly EMA payment will be £113 million in 2011/12. We have always had money set aside within the Department for Education budget for 16-19 financial support. As part of the budget discussions we agreed a call on Treasury reserves for a minority of the funding to help with the new 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Education Maintenance Allowance: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students *(a)* in England, *(b)* in the West Midlands, *(c)* in Dudley borough and *(d)* enrolled at Dudley college who started courses in the academic year 2010-11 received education maintenance allowance at a rate of (i) £30, (ii) £20 and (iii) less than £20 a week. [50801]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Dudley North with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Student Support Services

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether funding for discretionary learner support for 16 to 19 education will be allocated solely for the purposes of student support; and whether it may or will be used to support administration of the system. [51058]

Mr Gibb: The new 16-19 Bursary scheme will be less bureaucratic and better targeted than EMA. At least 95% of the fund will be used directly to support students. Schools, colleges and training providers will be allowed to use up to 5% of their allocation to meet the costs of administering the scheme.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in funding on student support services in *(a)* further education colleges, *(b)* sixth forms and *(c)* schools. [51059]

Mr Gibb: One of our key priorities with 16-19 participation funding has been to support the most disadvantaged and less able young people as much as possible. We have been able to do this by increasing the amount given over to disadvantaged funding and additional learner support. By recycling some of the savings from the reduction to the entitlement we have been able to increase funding for the more disadvantaged and those needing additional support by £150 million. This, along with the additional funding we have also made available to support Foundation Learning, will ensure that funding is targeted where it is most needed.

On 28 March 2011 we announced a new £180 million 16-19 Bursary Fund, which will enable schools, colleges and training providers to target support towards those young people facing the greatest financial barriers to participation.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what cost-benefit analysis his Department has made of the merits of *(a)* a nationally administered and *(b)* a localised 16 to 19 student finance system. [51061]

Mr Gibb: The education maintenance allowance (EMA) was a nationally administered system of financial support for 16-19-year-olds. Evidence suggests that around 90% of young people receiving support would have participated anyway. The 16-19 Bursary Fund—a locally administered system—will focus resources more sharply on those who are facing the greatest financial barriers to participation, in order to achieve the same benefits at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to further education providers of administering a discretionary support fund for 16 to 19 learners. [51063]

Mr Gibb: Under arrangements for the new 16-19 Bursary Fund, schools, colleges and training providers will be able to use up to 5% of their allocation to meet the costs of administering the scheme.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether funding for discretionary learner support for 16-19 education will be ring-fenced. [51064]

Mr Gibb: Under current arrangements discretionary learner support funds are allocated as a discrete budget which can only be used for that purpose. We expect that to be the case for the new 16-19 Bursary Fund, which we announced on 28 March 2011. We are currently consulting on our proposals.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the statement of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 53, on post-16 education funding, how many pupils in year 11 are eligible for free school meals in England; and how much funding will be required in discretionary funds in order to ensure that each student who was eligible for free school meals in year 11 could receive up to £800 in discretionary learner support for 16-19 education. [51081]

Mr Gibb: As at January 2010, there were 77,540 pupils in year 11 known to be eligible for free school meals in England. We expect there to be just over 74,500 young people in this 'group' starting post-16 courses for the first time in 2011/12. In total, we estimate that there will be just under 166,000 young people aged 16-19 in full-time education or training in 2011/12 who were eligible for free school meals in year 11.

If every young person who was eligible for free school meals in year 11 and has continued in full-time education or training post-16 were to receive a total of £800 in 2011/12 it would cost £132.8 million.

Once the cost of providing bursaries of £1,200 to the most vulnerable groups is taken into account, £165 million will be available to schools, colleges and training providers to award discretionary bursaries. This would be sufficient to provide a bursary of £800 to 15% of 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education or training, more than covering those who were eligible for free school meals in year 11.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether students in receipt of a 16-19 education bursary will be required to sign a learner agreement. [51340]

Mr Gibb: We expect that schools and colleges will make receipt of a bursary conditional on a student meeting expected standards, for example, of attendance, behaviour or standard of work. Schools and colleges have told us that the ability to set conditions is important for promoting a positive attitude to education.

Education: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department holds in reserve; and for what purpose such funding is held. [51342]

Tim Loughton: At the beginning of financial year 2010-11 the department held £207 million of reserve funding which has been fully drawn down in the financial year.

The Department follows HM Treasury Consolidated Budgeting Guidance on allocating reserve funding which states:

> "1.48 Departments are encouraged not to allocate their departmental expenditure limits (DEL) fully against their programmes at the start of a financial year but to hold some provision back to deal with unforeseen pressures that emerge subsequently, including their known contingent liabilities. This departmental unallocated provision (DUP) is published in Main Estimates and Supplementary Budgetary Information."

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Scunthorpe (Nic Dakin) of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 59, on post-16 education funding, what estimate he has made of the number of further education colleges that have a canteen or catering facilities on site; and how many further education facilities he has visited since his appointment. [51349]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of further education colleges that do not have kitchens or cafeterias on site is not held by the Department for Education or the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (the sponsoring Department for further education colleges).

Last month the Secretary of State for Education announced a new £180 million 16-19 Bursary Fund, which will enable schools, colleges and training providers to target support towards those young people facing the greatest financial barriers to participation. They can decide whether to provide subsidised meals in college or give young people a bursary that allows them to pay for food outside of college.

Since his appointment, the Secretary of State for Education has visited two further education colleges: Westminster Kingsway college on 3 March this year; and Goole college, which forms part of the Hull college group of colleges, on 1 April this year.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial support his Department provided to school cadet forces in the *(a)* independent and *(b)* state sector in 2010-11; and what financial support he plans to allocate for 2011-12. [51364]

Mr Gibb: In 2010-11 £60,000 was paid to schools in the state sector by the Department to support a pilot project enabling young people in the state sector to access cadet provision through partnerships between independent and maintained schools. No financial support was provided to participating independent schools.

The pilot project has now ended and the Department for Education has no plans to provide funding in 2011-12. Future funding for cadet forces is a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

On 28 February 2011 the Secretary of State for Education announced that the Department for Education will provide £1.5 million for the charity SkillForce to train former members of the armed forces to become mentors for young people in schools across England.

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to his Statement of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 51, on post-16 education funding, what plans he has to allow further education and sixth form colleges to access information on students enrolling in September 2011 who were in receipt of free meals whilst in compulsory schooling; and if he will make a statement. [51505]

Mr Gibb: Further education and sixth form colleges will be able to exercise their discretion to award 16-19 bursaries to young people—including young people who were in receipt of free school meals in year 11—in ways that best fit local needs and circumstances. We have no plans currently to establish a national system to make information on eligibility for free school meals available to further education and sixth form colleges. We are consulting on the details of the new arrangements and will work with the Association of Colleges and the Sixth Form Colleges Forum to consider how, at a local level, colleges could work with schools and local authorities to identify those students who might benefit from a bursary.

English Baccalaureate

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consultation he has undertaken on his decision not to include religious education as a humanities subject in the English Baccalaureate. [51047]

Mr Gibb: Since announcing in December 2010 the subjects that would be reported as counting towards the English Baccalaureate in the 2010 performance tables, the Department has received a wide range of correspondence on the decision not to include religious studies GCSE. Ministers and departmental officials have held a number of meetings with interested parties.

The Government are currently considering the content of the English Baccalaureate for the purposes of the 2011 performance tables. We intend to publish information on all measures to be included in the 2011 performance tables in our annual statement of intent, which will be published at:

www.education.gov.uk/performancetables

Family Courts

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average caseload of family court practitioners instructed by his Department was on the most recent date for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the likely average caseload on 31 March 2012. [51775]

Tim Loughton: The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) is responsible for the management of family court practitioners and their caseloads. I have asked Anthony Douglas, CAFCASS's chief executive, to write to the right hon. Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd with the information requested. A copy of Mr. Douglas's letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has any plans to introduce separate representation for children in care or family proceedings. [51777]

Tim Loughton: In care proceedings, children are represented both through a court appointed CAFCASS guardian, who represents the child's wishes and feelings to the court and provides independent social work advice to the court on the child's best interests, and by a solicitor appointed to represent the child's legal interests.

In private law cases, including contact and residence disputes, there is no automatic right to legal representation but, in that minority of cases where a court deems it appropriate to make a child party to the proceedings, there is provision for a child to be represented by a CAFCASS guardian.

The Government will consider changes needed across the whole of the family justice system once the Family Justice Review panel has issued its final report in the autumn. The panel's interim report is currently subject to consultation.

Free School Meals

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the free school meals pilots operating in *(a)* the London borough of Newham, *(b)* County Durham and *(c)* Wolverhampton; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each interim report produced on the pilots for his Department. [51283]

Mr Gibb: The Department makes regular assessments of the effectiveness of the free school meals pilots. The final evaluation report is due to be received by the Department on 31 March 2012. We shall publish the report within 12 weeks of its receipt. The aim of the evaluation is to measure the impact of the free school meals pilots in the London borough of Newham, County Durham and Wolverhampton.

Further Education: Catering

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* further education colleges which do not have (i) kitchens and (ii) cafeterias. [51644]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of sixth form colleges and further education colleges that do not have kitchens or cafeterias on site is not held by the Department for Education (the sponsoring department for sixth form colleges) or the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (the sponsoring department for further education colleges).

Further Education: Domestic Visits

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many further education college and sixth form cafeterias he has visited in 2011; [51316]

(2) which *(a)* sixth forms and *(b)* further education colleges he has visited in 2011. [51645]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 5 April 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education has visited seven school sixth forms and two further education colleges in 2011. The Department does not hold any record as to whether he visited their cafeterias. The institutions visited are as follows:

School Sixth Forms

Haberdashers Knights Aske's Academy
Twyford CoE High School
King Solomon Academy
Chellaston Academy
Altrincham Girls Grammar School
Goole High School
Pimlico Academy

Further Education Colleges

Westminster Kingsway College
Goole College

Education Maintenance Allowance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in further education received education maintenance allowance at the higher level in *(a)* Gateshead, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each year from 2006 to 2010. [51588]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education and manage the Capita contract. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Gateshead with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 7 April 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked;

"How many young people in further education received education maintenance allowance at the higher level in (a) Gateshead, (b) the North East and (c) England in each year from 2006 to 2010."

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The numbers of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance at the higher level of £30 a week are shown in the table below.

	2006/07	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Gateshead	1,670	1,921	2,132	2,533
North East	27,915	29,894	33,599	36,216
England	441,014	461,289	518,143	567,106

It is important to note that the above data may include duplicates as a result of learners changing their learning provider in-year.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 are available on the YPLA website at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Further Education: Finance

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the statement of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 59, on post-16 education funding, whether *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* further education colleges are eligible to receive funds from the sum for capital support announced in the 2011 Budget. [52395]

Mr Gibb: Through the Budget, the Chancellor has released £125 million of additional capital spending for England. Most of this is intended to ensure that we have a new generation of University Technical Colleges, which are new 14-19 institutions. Some of it will also support new Technical Academies, where the Department welcomes proposals for any age range, including 16-19. Colleges and other educational institutions may come forward with UTC or Technical Academy proposals. Details of how to apply can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/technical/a0076307/technical-academies-and-university-technical-colleges

Further Education: Manpower

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the number of staff employed in student support in *(a)* further education colleges, *(b)* sixth form colleges and *(c)* schools in each of the last five years. [51344]

Mr Gibb: The following tables provide the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants and support staff employed in further education colleges (FE), sixth form colleges and publicly funded schools in England in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09 (FE and sixth form colleges) and 2006 to 2010 (publicly funded schools).

Full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants and support staff in service in further education/sixth form colleges[1] and publicly funded schools. Years: FE and sixth form colleges (2004-05 to 2008-09) and publicly funded schools (January 2006 to 2010), coverage: England

	Further education and 6th form colleges		
	Support staff	*Other support staff[2]*	*Total support staff*
2008-09	25,220	59,950	85,170
2007-08	23,500	60,100	83,600
2006-07	20,740	57,880	78,620
2005-06	20,930	59,820	80,750
2004-05	20,600	60,260	80,860

Source:
Staff Individualised Record (SIR) survey conducted by Lifelong Learning UK.

	Publicly funded schools[3]		
	Teaching assistants[4]	*Support staff[5]*	*Total support staff*
2010	194,230	168,640	362,870
2009	183,700	162,210	345,920
2008	176,990	149,590	326,580
2007	163,800	144,390	308,190
2006	153,510	135,630	289,130

[1] Numbers based on full-time equivalent staff calculated on the number of contracts issued.

[2] Includes senior and other managers, admin/clerical staff, assessors and verifiers, technical and service staff.

[3] Publicly funded schools include local authority maintained schools, academies and city technology colleges.

[4] Includes higher level teaching assistants, nursery nurses, nursery assistants, literacy and numeracy support staff and any other teaching staff regularly employed to support teachers in the classroom, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.

[5] Includes secretaries, bursars, other admin/clerical staff, technicians (laboratory assistants, design technology assistants, home economics and craft technicians and IT technicians), matrons, nurses, medical staff, child care staff and other education support staff (librarians, welfare assistants and learning mentors).

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Further Education: Monitoring

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to monitor participation in post-16 education by 16 to 19-year-olds in future academic years; and what plans he has to publish the results of such monitoring. [51643]

Mr Gibb: Data on participation in education post-16 currently are principally monitored and published through the Department for Education (DfE) Statistical First Release (SFR) entitled "Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England". This is an annual publication, typically released in the third or fourth week in June.

The SFR provides detailed statistics for 16, 17 and 18-year-olds both separately and aggregated to 16-18 on whether they are participating in education, and if so at what type of institution, what level and type of course or programme, and type of attendance (full time or part time). Additionally, for young people who are in employment, statistics are given for whether they are also participating in education and training, either independently or funded by their employer. These statistics are calculated on an academic age basis; this means that the SFR refers to three distinct cohorts of young people in their first, second and third year post compulsory schooling. For selected statistics a time series of participation in education and/or employment is available from 1985, updated each year, with the most recently published figures relating to the end of 2009.

Further, statistical tables are published in addition to the main SFR that disaggregate participation in education (but not employment) into the local authority of residence of the young person. These are available for 16 and 17-year-olds in a time series extending back to 1994. Most recently figures were published for end 2009, with further updates planned annually every second or third week in March.

Separately, the Department releases figures for the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) at local authority level. The data are based on operational data currently collected by local authorities. The result of this data collection is the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS), which is used by local authorities to keep track of the participation of individual young people in their area. CCIS enables local authorities to assess whether the young person is currently in education, training or employment, and whether an offer of education and training has been made, or for young people who are NEET whether an appropriate intervention has been made.

The Department is committed to continue publishing participation data in the forms described above. The next release of the SFR showing the participation of 16-18-year-olds at the end of 2010 is planned for June 2011, with a disaggregation into local authority areas for 16 and 17-year-olds to follow in March 2012. Similarly, CCIS will continue to be the means by which local authorities collect and record offers of education and training for young people.

GCE A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of GCE A-level students were entered for GCE A-level *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* geography, *(c)* French, *(d)* German and *(e)* Spanish in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority in the most recent period for which figures are available. [51114]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 April 2011]:* The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCSE

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many secondary school students sat GCSE examinations in *(a)* vocational subjects and *(b)* academic subjects in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [50486]

Mr Gibb: The information shown in the table below covers all pupils at the end of key stage 4 in all secondary schools.

		Number of pupils in secondary schools who sat GCSE examinations in:	
	Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4	*Vocational qualifications*	*Academic qualifications*
2009	634,496	126,575	618,729

	Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4	Number of pupils in secondary schools who sat GCSE examinations in: Vocational qualifications	Academic qualifications
2010	639,744	103,299	622,787

Source:
School and College Performance tables.

Grammar Schools: Disadvantaged

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children *(a)* in receipt of free school meals, *(b)* with a statement of special educational need, *(c)* from a Black and ethnic minority community and *(d)* looked after by a local authority received a place in a grammar school in each of the last five years. [52256]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect information on the placement of pupils. Pupils in national curriculum year 7 have been used in this answer, except for looked after children where children aged 11 have been used.

Information on the characteristics of these pupils is shown in the tables.

State-funded secondary schools[1, 2] and grammar schools: characteristics of national curriculum year 7 pupils, as at January each year, 2006 to 2010, England

	National curriculum year group 7					
	All pupils[3]			Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4]		
	Number of pupils attending state-funded secondary schools[1, 2]	Of which: number of pupils attending grammar schools	% of pupils attending grammar schools[6]	Number of pupils attending state-funded secondary schools[1, 2]	Of which: number of pupils attending grammar schools	% of pupils attending grammar schools[6]
2006	569,255	21,895	3.8	93,840	490	0.5
2007	557,350	21,775	3.9	89,695	485	0.5
2008	552,325	21,805	3.9	88,210	465	0.5
2009	562,810	22,035	3.9	92,990	555	0.6
2010	549,725	22,070	4.0	96,680	610	0.6

	National curriculum year group 7					
	Pupils with a statement of SEN[3]			Pupils of Black ethnicity[3, 5]		
	Number of pupils attending state-funded secondary schools[1, 2]	Of which: number of pupils attending grammar schools	% of pupils attending grammar schools[6]	Number of pupils attending state-funded secondary schools[1, 2]	Of which: number of pupils attending grammar schools	% of pupils attending grammar schools[6]
2006	13,055	50	0.4	21,760	350	1.6
2007	12,140	40	0.3	23,045	390	1.7
2008	11,495	45	0.4	24,015	440	1.8
2009	11,670	65	0.5	25,100	545	2.2
2010	11,370	70	0.6	24,610	560	2.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Excludes dual registrations.
[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[5] Black ethnicity comprises Black African, Black Caribbean and Any Other Black background.
[6] Number of pupils attending grammar schools expressed as a percentage of pupils attending state-funded secondary schools.
Source:
School Census and EduBase

Children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March, aged 11[1, 2, 3], 2006 to 2010, England

	Children aged 11[3]		
	Number of children looked after continuously for 12 months[4]	Number of children looked after continuously for 12 months attending grammar schools[2]	% of children looked after continuously for 12 months attending grammar schools[5]
2006	3,000	10	0.3
2007	3,000	10	0.4
2008	2,800	10	0.4
2009	2,800	20	0.7
2010	2,700	10	0.4

[1] Children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March excluding those children in respite care.
[2] Children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March, who were matched to their School Census record via the National Pupil Database.
[3] Age at 31 August each year, i.e. at the start of the school year.
[4] All children who have been looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March each year.
[5] Children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March attending grammar schools expressed as a percentage of all children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
Source:
CLA-NPD matched data and EduBase

City Challenge Programme

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* Greater Manchester Challenge, *(b)* London Challenge and *(c)* Black Country Challenge; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each (i) report and (ii) assessment prepared for his Department on the effectiveness of these projects. [51284]

Mr Gibb: Last year, the Secretary of State approved an evaluation of the City Challenge programme, to enable its effectiveness to be assessed. This will report towards the end of the 2011 and copies will be placed in the House Libraries. Our initial view, however, is that, while the programme has been effective in helping to raise school standards it was expensive and adopted an approach that was too centralised.

The recent Schools White Paper: 'The Importance of Teaching' set out our view that the primary responsibility for school improvement should rest with schools. The wider system should be designed so that our best schools and leaders can take on greater responsibility, leading improvement work across the system. We are putting the building blocks of a self improving school system in place, increasing the numbers of Teaching Schools and National and Local Leaders of Education and intervening only where schools are under-performing.

Literacy: Teaching Methods

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many respondents there were to his Department's consultation on the phonics test; and how many respondents were *(a)* in favour and *(b)* against the proposals. [52150]

Mr Gibb: There were 1,071 responses to the public consultation on the Year 1 phonics screening check.

We did not ask whether respondents were in favour of, or against, the proposals as a whole. Instead, we asked more detailed questions about the different elements of the proposed phonics check. The statistics on the responses to the consultation questions have been published as part of the Government's response to the consultation, which is available at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/pedagogy/teachingstyles/phonics/a0075951/year1phonicsresponse

Music

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the In-Harmony music pilots in *(a)* Liverpool, *(b)* London and *(c)* Norwich; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each (i) report and (ii) assessment prepared for his Department on the effectiveness of these pilots. [51282]

Mr Gibb: The final evaluation reports for the three In-Harmony projects in Liverpool, London and Norwich will be published later this year and a copy will be placed in the House Libraries. Ofsted has visited the Liverpool In-Harmony pilot and found that participation has been beneficial for the pupils' personal and social development, as well as for their general educational attainment. The Henley Review of Music Education published in February 2011 commented that the music pilots have delivered life-changing experiences for the children involved which others may wish to learn from.

Music: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated in respect of music education in each year for which figures are available; and how much funding it expects to allocate in each of the next five years. [52390]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows the standards fund allocations for music education in England from 2000-11 and the funding allocation for music education in 2011-12. We shall be setting out our vision for music education later this year, in a National Plan for Music Education. The plan will set out future funding allocations and a new funding mechanism from 2012-13.

	£
2000-01	40,300,518
2001-02	50,060,500
2002-03	59,633,546
2003-04	61,049,563
2004-05	59,567,563
2005-06	61,053,563
2006-07	64,053,456
2007-08	82,562,725
2008-09	82,562,467
2009-10	82,562,467
2010-11	82,562,467
2011-12	[1]82,500,000

[1] Music Education Grant

National Curriculum Tests

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what arrangements his Department expects schools to make for children who are unable to undertake the 11-plus examination due to illness; [52170]

(2) what arrangements his Department expects schools to make for children whose education has been previously disrupted when conducting 11-plus examinations; [52171]

(3) what research his Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on the emotional, psychological and social effects on children of their performance in the 11-plus examination. [52172]

Mr Gibb: The 11 plus, along with other tests to determine whether a child should be offered a place at a selective school, is not a statutory assessment. It is for the admission authorities of those remaining schools that are able to select, to set and administer any tests for entry, including any arrangements that they may wish to put in place for children who are unable to undertake tests due to illness or other disruption.

The Department has not conducted any research on the emotional, psychological and social effects on children who take the 11-plus examination. We have no plans for any research or evaluation.

Outward Grange Consultancy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the salary of the head teacher of Outwood Grange School. [50504]

Mr Gibb: Information on teachers' salaries is published as part of the results of the School Workforce Census (SWF) which have been published in a Statistical First Release and is available on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/SFR62011.pdf

All schools, including academies, were required to supply data on many factors, including staff pay. Schools supply data at individual staff member level, and actual salary details for all teachers in maintained schools and academies are collected but are only published in £5,000 and £10,000 salary bands at national level.

The academy trust of Outwood Grange School like all academy trusts is required to publish annual accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. In addition to this, the Charity Commission has published a Statement of Recommended Practice which clarifies how charities should prepare their accounts in order to reflect these legal requirements. This states that charities which are subject to a statutory audit should include a note in their accounts disclosing the number of employees whose pay was £60,000 or above, presented in £10,000 bandings. The Department expects academy trusts, as charitable companies, to comply with this.

Pupil Exclusions: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were excluded permanently from schools in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* St Albans constituency in each of the last five years. [52122]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of permanent exclusions[4] 2004/05 - 2008/09 Hertfordshire local authority and St Albans parliamentary constituency

	Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]									
	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09	
	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[5]
Hertfordshire	240	0.14	230	0.13	210	0.12	130	0.11	80	0.05
St Albans	20	0.10	20	0.10	20	0.10	10	0.06	10	0.03

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Figures for the local authority are as confirmed by local authorities as part of the data checking exercise, figures for the constituency are as provided by schools.

[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils).

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10,

Source:

School Census

Schools: Pupils

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools are grant maintained; and which such schools had the (i) highest and (ii) lowest number of pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [51194]

Mr Gibb: Grant maintained schools were abolished under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The last School Census to collect information on grant maintained schools was January 1999. The requested information as at January 1999 is shown in the table.

Grant maintained primary and secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of schools and the highest and lowest number of pupils[3]. As at January 1999. In England

	Number of schools	Of which: Number of grant maintained schools	Highest number of pupils	Lowest number of pupils
Primary	18,234	511	861	32
Secondary	3,560	668	2,361	50

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] From 1 September 1999, all previous categories of school, including grant-maintained, were replaced by four new categories, all maintained (or funded) by the local authority: Community, Foundation, Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled.

[3] Headcount of solely registered pupils.

Source:

School Census

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in each region he has visited since May 2010. [51620]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education has visited 35 schools across England since May 2010; and the breakdown by region is as follows:

Region	Number of schools visited
North East	5
North West	2
Yorkshire and the Humber	5
West Midlands	2
East Midlands	1
East	2
Greater London	18
South East	0
South West	0

Schools: Admissions

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many local authorities have indicated to his Department their support for the abolition of admissions forums. [51672]

Mr Gibb: We are not proposing the abolition of admission forums. Clause 34 of the Education Bill removes the requirement on local authorities to set up a forum, leaving it to local decision making whether they should be retained. We already know of a number of areas where the decision has been taken by the local authority and their local partners to keep the forum in place.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to his contribution of 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 284, on the Schools White Paper, what progress he has made on revising the School Admissions Code. [51759]

Mr Gibb: We will shortly launch a national consultation to allow parents, schools and other stakeholders to consider revised School Admissions and Appeals Codes.

Schools: Asbestos

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what guidance his Department issues on the level of exposure to asbestos of *(a)* school staff and *(b)* school children below which (i) individuals exposed and (ii) parents of children exposed need not be informed; [51916]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to local authorities and schools on the level of exposure to asbestos that constitutes a significant risk to *(a)* school staff and *(b)* school children; [51917]

(3) what guidance his Department issues on the minimum level of exposure to *(a)* amosite, *(b)* crocidolite and *(c)* chrysotile which poses a significant long-term risk to (i) school staff and (ii) school children; [51969]

(4) what his policy is on referring schools and local education authorities to the Health and Safety Executive guidance LAC 5/19 following a release of asbestos fibres in a school. [51970]

Mr Gibb: The Control of Asbestos Regulations and the Codes of Practice published by HSE do not differentiate between the risks at different levels of exposure to asbestos fibres. No exposure level is deemed to be safe. The Regulations and Codes of Practice require all reasonable steps to be taken to manage asbestos to prevent exposure to all types of asbestos fibres, and cover school buildings. Therefore no guidance is currently issued by the Department on the level of exposure to asbestos that constitutes a risk to school staff and children.

The Department has however asked the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Partnerships for Schools to produce a website to develop the awareness among key personnel of their responsibilities in relation to asbestos in schools. The intended users of the website are head teachers, governors, teachers, support staff; and those local authority officers identified as duty holders under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006. The objectives of the website are to ensure that all these groups are aware of their responsibilities and of the risks if asbestos is not managed properly.

In the event of asbestos fibres being found, the school or local authority should refer to HSE guidance note Local Authority Circular 5/19 "The level of risk from occupational exposure to asbestos: guidance for HSE and LA staff when responding to enquiries".

Schools: Contracts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department has awarded to Challenge Leadership relating to school improvement. [50461]

Tim Loughton: The Department's central contract records show that the Department has not recorded a contract with Challenge Leadership relating to school improvement. A search of the Department's finance system shows that the Department did not make any payments to Challenge Leadership between November 2009 and March 2011.

Schools: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* grants and *(b)* funding streams for schools are not included in the definition of core funding; and what their total value was in the financial year 2010-11. [35861]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The following table shows the grants or funding streams for 2010-11 that have not been transferred into main school funding, through the Dedicated Schools Grant, in 2011-12.

Non-frontline schools grants/funding streams

			£ million
	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Music Grant[1]	82.5	82.5	77.0
Assessment for Learning	—	50.0	—
Playing For Success	13.1	13.0	—
Prospectus and Common Application Process	1.7	1.7	—
School Travel Advisers	6.9	6.9	—
School Improvement Partners	23.6	24.2	—
Secondary National Strategy—Behaviour and Attendance	13.8	13.8	—
Primary National Strategy—Central Co-ordination	30.0	30.0	—
Secondary National Strategy—Central Co-ordination	30.0	30.0	—
Extended Schools Start Up Costs	171.9	70.7	—
Flexible 14-19 Partnerships Funding	14.5	14.5	—
School Intervention	15.0	15.0	—
General Duty on Sustainable Travel to School[2]	4.0	4.0	—
School Development Grant	168.3	168.3	—
Extended Rights for Free Travelt[2]	19.7	28.9	38.0
Designated Teacher Funding	3.3	3.3	—
Choice Advisers	5.6	5.6	—
Education Health Partnerships	21.3	13.2	—
National Challenge	52.2	45.7	—
City Challenge	28.4	13.2	—
Targeted Improvement Grant	32.5	16.1	—
Total	730.3	650.6	115.0

[1] Music Grant is paid to authorities via the Federation of Music Services (FMS) in 2011-12.

[2] A single funding stream for Extended Rights and General Duty on Sustainable Travel (total £38 million) is available through the Local Service Support Grant in 2011-12, which is paid and administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Schools: Milton Kenyes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children receiving free school meals in maintained schools in Milton Keynes council area achieved five GCSEs at grade A* to C in the latest period for which figures are available. [51757]

Mr Gibb: The latest available figures were published in table 5 of the Statistical First Release "GCSE and Equivalent Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England, 2009/10" at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000977/index.shtml

In 2009/10, at the end of Key Stage 4, 297 pupils in state-funded schools in Milton Keynes were eligible for free school meals. 56% of these pupils achieved five or more GCSEs or equivalents at grade A* to C.

Schools: Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 57W, on schools: transport, whether his Department's review of school transport will include transport provision for 16 to 19 year olds. [51662]

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 57W, on schools: transport, whether the review of school transport will include transport provision for 16 to 19 year olds. [51721]

Mr Gibb: The main focus of the review will be to work with local authorities to identify and share best practice and how efficiency savings made by some local authorities can be replicated more widely. We intend to consider all aspects of school transport but will also examine what practice exists for post-16 provision.

Social Services: Children

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many vulnerable children in Bassetlaw he estimates are not currently assigned a social worker. [51852]

Tim Loughton: The Government does not collect data on the numbers of vulnerable children assigned social workers. There is not a standard definition of vulnerable children and where those data are collected, that is done on an upper tier local authority area basis. The Department published statistics on 30 November 2010 on "Children In Need in England, including their characteristics and further information on children who were the subject of a child protection plan" for the period 2009-10. Those statistics can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000970/index.shtml

and show that in the year ending 31 March 2010 Nottinghamshire county council received 9,736 referrals of concern about a child's welfare. They completed 5,173 initial assessments to determine whether each of those children where children in need under the Children Act 1989, and 631 children became subject to a child protection plan during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. Government statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010) sets out that, "The initial assessment should be led by a qualified and experienced social worker who is supervised by a highly experienced and qualified social work manager". The full guidance can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00305-2010

Further details at district council level may be available from Nottinghamshire county council.

Special Educational Needs

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Special Educational Needs Green Paper, 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability', what steps he plans to take to enable people with profound and multiple learning disabilities to participate in further education; and if he will make a statement. [51274]

Sarah Teather: The Green Paper, 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability—A consultation', includes proposals for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and support to participate in further education. We welcome the views of young people, colleges and others as we decide on the best way to do this. The consultation period runs until 30 June 2011 and we will publish our plans later this year when we have considered the responses received.

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to increase the number of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities who participate in further education; and if he will make a statement. [51275]

Mr Gibb: The Green Paper 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability' includes proposals for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and support to participate in further education. We welcome the views of young people, colleges and others as we decide on the best way to do this. The consultation period runs until 30 June 2011 and we will publish our plans later this year when we have considered the responses received.

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to provide incentives for specialist colleges to partner with non-specialist further education colleges to improve the quality and provision of education for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [51360]

Mr Gibb: As set out in the Green Paper 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability', we will consider how best to encourage partnership working between independent specialist colleges, special schools and non-specialist further education colleges. This will help spread knowledge, improve expertise, build capacity, and share delivery arrangements so that colleges and training providers can respond effectively to the needs of students, employers and communities.

We will listen to the views of young people, colleges and others as we decide on the best way to do this and question 19 of the Green Paper consultation invites responses to this issue. The consultation period runs until 30 June 2011 and we will publish our plans later this year when we have considered the responses received.

Special Educational Needs: Free Schools

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to allocate funding for the establishment of free schools for children with special educational needs. [50933]

Mr Gibb: We invited groups to develop proposals to establish Free Schools on 18 June 2010, including those wanting to establish special Free Schools catering for children with special educational needs. The recent Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability", published on 9 March set out that the first special free schools will open in September 2012 catering for those with statements of special educational needs. Funding will be provided for such schools and, as every free school is different, the costs will vary between projects.

Students: Transport

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change local authority duties relating to 16 to 19 transport under the Education Act 1996 following the introduction of his Department's bursary scheme for 16 to 19 year-olds in education. [51722]

Mr Gibb: The Government have no plans to amend local authorities' statutory duties relating to post-16 transport arrangements. The 16-19 Bursary Fund, which we announced on 28 March 2011, will give schools, colleges and training providers the flexibility to make payments to support students' transport costs. This does not replace the statutory duty that local authorities have to make sure that no young person in their area is prevented from attending education post 16 because of a lack of transport.

Teachers: Merseyside

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of newly qualified teachers in Merseyside without a permanent job at the end of their training in the latest period for which figures are available; and what his estimate is of the average length of time between teachers, being made redundant and their next permanent post in the latest period for which figures are available. [52508]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not collected centrally. The data that most closely relate to the question are collected by the Training and Development Agency.

Training and Development Agency figures show, for 2008/09 (the latest available), that of the 1,070 teachers gaining Qualified Teacher Status through providers based in Merseyside, 75.2% were in a teaching post six months later. This compares with 80.9% for England.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teacher training places there were in Merseyside in the latest period for which figures are available. [52522]

Mr Gibb: There are two teacher training providers located in the Merseyside area. These are Liverpool Hope University and Liverpool John Moores University. There are also a number of providers who are located just outside, but which contribute to the employment of teachers in the area. The allocations of new entrant places for these providers in 2011/12 are given in the table.

Allocations for 2011/12	*Secondary*	*Primary*
Liverpool Hope University	267	473
Liverpool John Moores University	276	87
Edge Hill University	584	622
University of Chester	102	158
Merseyside and Cheshire GTP Partnership (EBITT)	28	22
North West and Lancashire GTP Consortium (EBITT)	70	23
Kingsbridge Education Improvement Partnership GTP (EBITT)	7	9
University of Chester (EBITT)	26	30

Key:
EBITT = Employment-based initial teacher training
Source:
Training and Development Agency for School

Vocational Guidance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1052-3W, on vocational guidance, how many meetings have taken place between officials of his Department and officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the implementation of the all-age careers service since November 2010; on which date each such meeting took place; and at what level each such meeting was conducted. [52440]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills established a formal project board and advisory group to consider the implementation of the all-age careers service. Both are chaired jointly by the responsible deputy director from each Department. The project board met on 24 November 2010, 21 January 2011, 22 February 2011 and 25 March 2011. The advisory group met on 17 December 2010, 28 January 2011 and 10 March 2011.

Voluntary Organisations: Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which voluntary and community sector grants will provide *(a)* revenue funding for the organisations involved and *(b)* funding for specific projects; and which projects have been funded in each category. [51676]

Sarah Teather: On 25 February 2011, the Department announced which voluntary organisations had been successful in their bids for funding from our Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grant worth around £60 million each year in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The VCS grant has been allocated according to activities offered under specific grant themes, these are:

1. Families and Relationship support
2. Early Years and Childcare
3. Special Educational Needs and Disability
4. Children in Care
5. Child Protection and Safeguarding
6. Young People.

In addition, 'Strategic Partner' grants have been established to ensure Government get advice about issues affecting VCS organisations and to help capacity building of the sector, in particular smaller organisations, through transition. The themes for strategic partner grants are:

Family Services

Early Years and Childcare

SEN and Disability

Young People

Overarching children, young people and families.

I refer you to the press notice at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0074906/voluntary-and-community-organisations-awarded-60-million-grant

on the DfE website. Please note that final negotiations are still taking place and indicative amounts may vary slightly from the final amount awarded.

Successful VCS organisations

Organisation name/consortium lead	*Theme/ strategic partner*	*Amount offered 2011-12 (£)*	*Amount offered 2012-13 (£)*
4Children	2	350,000	350,000
4Children	2	390,000	300,000
4Children (Foundations for the Future)	SP EY and C	500,000	500,000
A National Voice	4	100,000	100,000
ACE Centre North	3	135,251	115,133
Action for Advocacy	4	50,000	50,000
Action for Children	1	735,000	670,000
Action for Prisoners' Families (APF)	1	100,000	100,000
Addaction	1	274,000	214,852
Addaction	6	413,264	282,592
Adfam	1	92,500	92,500
Alcohol Concern	1	177,000	220,000
Anna Freud Centre (The)	5	381,417	434,410
Asian Family Counselling Service	1	150,000	149,800
Autism Education Trust (AET)	3	652,469	555,441
Barnardo's	SP FS	1,119,663	1,142,221
Barnardo's	4	290,000	290,000
Barnardo's	5	518,316	879,360
Bolton Lads and Girls Club	6	355,041	294,278
British Association for Adoption and Fostering	4	299,000	299,000
Brook	5	139,631	100,181
Care for the Family (CFF)	1	300,000	200,000
Careers South West Ltd (Positive Transitions)	6	1,200,000	1,200,000
Catch22	6	1,500,000	1,454,121
Catch22	4	350,000	330,000
Centre for Separated Families (The)	1	240,000	180,000
Challenging Behaviour Foundation (The)	3	192,655	222,136
Child and Family Training Limited (C and FT)	5	145,483	153,437
Children and Families Across Borders	5	113,000	116,320
Children England (Kindle Plus Consortium)	SP OA	1,250,964	1,209,075
Children Our Ultimate Investment	6	254,000	234,000
Children's Legal Centre (The)	5	176,265	154,291
Children's Society (The)	1	243,726	267,535
Clubs for Young People	6	650,000	480,000
Communication Trust (1 CAN)	3	1,000,000	750,000
Contact a Family	1	216,525	203,298
Contact a Family	3	438,649	419,780
ContinYou	2	400,000	386,000
Council for Disabled Children (CDC)	SP SEND	749,642	695,650
CSV	5	158,672	132,507
CSV	1	402,423	375,423
Daycare Trust	2	300,000	300,000
Diana Award (The)	5	198,922	132,614
Dyslexia Action	3	750,000	600,000
Dyslexia-SpLD Trust	3	693,456	630,579
Early Education (British Association for Early Childhood Education)	2	131,374	108,040
Endeavour	6	312,868	230,691
Families Need Fathers	1	261,415	263,807
Family and Parenting Institute (The)	1	329,088	181,616
Family Delivery Team (Interface Associates UK)	1	960,097	933,375
Family Rights Group	4	93,000	93,000
Fatherhood Institute (The)	1	302,310	164,665
Fatherhood Institute (The)	5	310,890	166,476
Fostering Network (The)	4	78,000	79,000
Foyer Federation	6	500,000	353,519
Gingerbread	1	193,102	174,081
Groundwork UK	6	1,500,000	1,215,600
Home-Start UK (HSUK)	1	1,230,000	1,200,000
Home-Start UK (HSUK)	5	792,020	717,663
Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA)	3	70,800	70,800
Institute of Wellbeing	1	450,000	400,000
KIDS	3	385,800	270,100
Kids Company	6	4,485,000	4,485,000
Kidscape	6	133,456	127,966
Lucy Faithfull Foundation(The)	5	210,519	222,911
MacIntyre	3	399,168	326,004
Marriage Care	1	690,269	616,475
Media Trust	6	400,000	375,000
Missing People	5	215,828	222,303
Movement for non-mobile children (Whizz Kidz) (The)	3	257,437	199,340
National Association for Special Education Needs (The)—Nasen	3	600,000	520,000
National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC)	1	160,000	160,000
National Autistic Society (The)	3	107,681	74,941
National Childminding Association	2	500,000	600,000
National Children's Bureau (NCB)	4	99,000	79,000
National Children's Bureau (NCB)	2	540,000	510,000
National Children's University	2	350,000	350,000
National Council for Voluntary Youth Services	SP YP	1,490,300	1,089,000
(NCVYS) (known as Catalyst)	2	500,000	500,000

Successful VCS organisations

Organisation name/consortium lead	*Theme/ strategic partner*	*Amount offered 2011-12 (£)*	*Amount offered 2012-13 (£)*
National Day Nurseries Association	3	196,292	155,496
National Deaf Children's Society (The)	2	137,300	119,800
National Education Trust	2	175,000	175,000
National Portage Association (NPA)	3	200,000	150,000
National Sensory Impaired Partnership	5	630,000	650,000
NSPCC (Safe Network)	1	921,250	724,500
One Plus One (OPO)	1	120,550	108,050
Parenting UK	1	698,688	603,392
Parentline Plus (Family Lives)			
Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group (POPS)	1	150,000	150,000
Pen Green Children and Families and Research Centre	2	200,397	168,752
Place2Be (The)	1	221,815	240,939
Place2Be (The)	5	160,338	162,031
Pre-school Learning Alliance	2	865,000	930,000
Prince's Trust (and Fairbridge)	6	900,000	858,891
Princess Royal Trust for Carers (The)	1	500,000	500,000
Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)	1	314,525	343,546
Project for Advocacy Counselling and Education (PACE)	1	153,853	157,206
QEDUK	6	113,521	106,767
Relate	1	1,850,403	1,711,630
Roma Support Group	1	86,387	65,431
Safe Ground	1	240,979	235,380
School Food Trust (The)	2	160,000	200,000
SCOPE	3	121,693	135,256
Shared Care Network	3	112,000	81,000
SHS (School-Home Support)	1	500,000	500,000
Social Care Institute for Excellence	5	518,193	424,208
Spurgeons	1	350,000	350,000
Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships (The)	1	699,000	657,000
Terrence Higgins Trust	6	207,664	214,603
Time for Families	1	150,000	150,000
Tomorrow's People	6	750,000	750,000
UK Youth	6	576,000	391,000
V, National Young Volunteers Service	6	800,000	769,904
Victoria Climbié Foundation UK (The)	5	168,880	167,280
Voice (Voice for the Child in Care)	4	75,000	75,000
Who Cares? Trust (The)	4	74,000	72,000
WomenCentre Ltd	5	155,400	160,800
YMCA Derbyshire	1	600,000	600,000
YoungMinds	3	213,792	142,900

Note:
The funding amounts are indicative. Year 1 funding is dependent on successful negotiations on detail of the grants and securing exemption for activity which is subject to the marketing and advertising efficiency controls. Year 2 amounts are dependent on successful delivery of agreed outcomes.
Key to themes:
1. Families and Relationships
2. Early Years and Childcare
3. SEN and Disability
4. Children in Care
5. Child Protection and Safeguarding
6. Young People

SP EY and C = Strategic Partner Early Years and Childcare
SP FS = Strategic Partner Family Services
SP SEND = Strategic Partner SEN and Disability
SP YP = Strategic Partner Young People
SP OA = Strategic Partner Over Arching children, young people and families

Young People's Learning Agency

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which of the statutory duties and powers held by the Young People's Learning Agency will *(a)* pass to his Department, *(b)* pass to the Education Funding Agency and *(c)* be abolished following the passage of the Education Bill; and if he will make a statement. [51730]

Mr Gibb: Subject to its successful passage, the Education Bill will abolish the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and repeal all of its statutory duties and powers as set out in Part 3 and Schedule 3 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

From April 2012, the YPLA's functions will become the responsibility of the Secretary of State and its funding functions will be administered by a new Education Funding Agency (EFA). The EFA will be established as an executive agency within the Department for Education. It will be responsible for calculating and distributing funding directly to all academies, free schools and providers of 16-19 education and training. The EFA will also distribute resources to local authorities for them to pass on, as now, to those primary and secondary schools that are not yet academies.

The Education Bill also sets out changes to provisions in the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. It proposes that the YPLA's power to intervene in sixth form colleges and associated duties in respect of an intervention policy should be repealed, also with its power to appoint members to a sixth form college's governing body. The requirement for sixth form colleges to gain consent of the YPLA before they exercise their supplementary powers in relation to certain investments, borrowing and related matters should be removed. The Bill transfers to the Secretary of State the YPLA's powers in respect of instruments and articles of government of a new sixth form college and amendments to instruments and articles of existing colleges. It also transfers to the Secretary of State the YPLA's power to make payments to local authorities in relation to certain loan liabilities. The Secretary of State's duty to consult the YPLA before making an order dissolving a further education corporation or sixth form college should also be repealed.

Young People's Learning Agency: Manpower

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Young People's Learning Agency staff work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time on issues relating to the education and training of people in youth custody. [51731]

Mr Gibb: The YPLA has one full-time member of staff who operates as the national policy lead on issues relating to the education and training of young people in youth custody and nine regional leads who work on these issues on a part-time basis.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the amount of revenue which will be raised by bringing business jets into air passenger duty in each year to 2015-16. [52437]

Justine Greening: The Government's plans to extend air passenger duty (APD) to passengers aboard business jet flights are included in the Budget consultation document. Details of the new tax will be determined in light of the consultation responses; it is not therefore possible to accurately estimate revenues at the current time.

Bank Levy

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the Bank Levy rates for short-term chargeable liabilities and long-term chargeable equity and liabilities were chosen for the periods *(a)* 1 January 2011 to 28 February 2011, *(b)* 1 March 2011 to 30 April 2011, *(c)* 1 May 2011 to 31 December 2011 and *(d)* 1 January 2012 onwards. [51791]

Mr Gauke: An explanation of the rates set for the Bank Levy is included in the Tax Information and Impact Note published at Budget 2011, available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6123.htm

Bank Services: Children in Care

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much financial support he plans to provide to savings accounts for looked-after children in each of the next four financial years. [49491]

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether Government contributions to the proposed junior ISA for looked-after children are to be backdated to 3 January 2011; [49817]

(2) how much funding his Department will provide for the proposed junior independent savings account for looked-after children in each year between 2011-12 and 2014-15; [49371]

(3) what the proposed level of contribution from the public purse to the proposed junior individual savings account for looked-after children will be in its first year of operation. [49372]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

On 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 834, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Government's intention to provide funding to enable looked-after children across the United Kingdom to benefit from the new tax free children's savings account known as the junior ISA.

We have already met representatives from Action for Children, Barnardo's and the Share Foundation. Over the coming months the Department for Education will be working with charities and other interested parties on the details of how the scheme will work, including the eligibility criteria and the level of Government contributions.

Banks: Iceland

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Iceland on repayments from Icelandic banks to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* individual depositors; [52146]

(2) what estimate he has made of the net cost to the economy of the collapse of Icelandic banks in 2008. [52147]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations, overseas governments and ministries as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The local authorities are creditors in the administrations of the failed Icelandic banks. The timing and quantum of recoveries will be determined by the administrators.

Arrangements have been made for all eligible UK depositors in the Icelandic banks to be fully compensated by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and HM Treasury.

The failure of the Icelandic banks is part of the wider global financial crisis and is impossible to separate so the Government have made no separate assessment of the economic impact of this specific issue.

Contact details for the administrators in the various resolutions are available on the HM Treasury website:

http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_stability_icelandic_resolution.htm

Banks: Loans

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to section 1 of Project Merlin—Banks' Statement, what discussions he and his officials have had with each banking institution subscribing to the statement on the effect on economic recovery of the interest rates at which the banking institutions will lend to small and medium-sized businesses engaged in real economy activity; and if he will make a statement. [52267]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Budget March 2011

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to Budget 2011, page 75, if he will publish the evidential basis for the data in Chart A.1; [51653]

(2) with reference to Budget 2011, page 76, if he will publish the evidential basis for the data in Chart A.2; [51654]

(3) with reference to Budget 2011, page 78, if he will publish the evidential basis for the data in *(a)* Chart A.5 and *(b)* Chart A.4; [51655]

(4) with reference to Budget 2011, page 77, if he will publish the evidential basis for the data in Chart A.3. [51656]

Mr Gauke: Chart A. 1 is produced using table 14 of the Office for National Statistics publication 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income, 2008/09', published in June 2010.

For more information on the methodology, see:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/Taxes_Benefits_0809.pdf

Charts A.2 and A.3 are produced using HM Treasury's tax and benefit microsimulation model, as described in paragraph A.14 of the Budget 2011 data sources document:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_datasources.pdf

Business Investment

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the sums to be invested in UK businesses directly attributable to the measures announced in the 2011 Budget in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [51606]

Mr Gauke: The Office for Budget Responsibility stated in their June forecast that they expect the recovery to be supported by business investment, and that business investment growth will be strong in the next five years.

The aggregate effect of all the measures announced in Budget 2011 forms part of the OBR's assessment of the economic outlook, but the impact of individual measures is not considered explicitly.

However, their forecast is underpinned by the Budget measures announced—for example, the reductions in the rate of corporation tax—that will help to reduce the cost of capital.

Capital Gains Tax

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the deadweight cost of proposed changes to *(a)* the enterprise investment scheme, *(b)* venture capital trusts and *(c)* capital gains tax entrepreneurs' relief announced in the 2011 Budget. [51540]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the Exchequer impact of the proposed changes to *(a)* the enterprise investment scheme, *(b)* venture capital trusts and *(c)* capital gains tax entrepreneurs' relief were published at Budget in the policy costings document available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

The published static costings are the Exchequer impact before taking account of the behavioural effects as a result of these measures.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals he expects to be affected by the increase in the capital gains tax entrepreneurs' relief lifetime limit in each year to 2015-16. [51542]

Mr Gauke: Budget 2011 announced that the lifetime limit on gains qualifying for capital gains tax (CGT) entrepreneurs' relief would be increased from £5 million to £10 million from 6 April 2011.

Further information can be found in the published Tax Information and Impact Note of the Overview of Tax Legislation and Rates document:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_taxation_overview.pdf

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new businesses he expects to be established as a result of the changes to *(a)* the enterprise investment scheme, *(b)* venture capital trusts and *(c)* capital gains tax entrepreneurs' relief announced in the 2011 Budget. [51543]

Mr Gauke: No such estimates have been made.

The numbers of companies qualifying under the EIS are published by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs as National Statistics at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/ent_invest_scheme/table8-1.pdf

The numbers of VCTs are also published by HMRC as National Statistics at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/venture/table8-6.pdf

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional investment he expects to arise from changes to capital gains tax entrepreneurs' relief announced in the March 2011 Budget *(a)* for businesses directly benefiting from the changes and *(b)* across the economy. [52536]

Mr Gauke: No such estimates have been made.

Child Benefit

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the effect on child benefit payments in real terms in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14 of freezing such payments at the existing level. [51073]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 5 April 2011]:* The following table shows the estimated average change per week per child as a result of freezing the rates of child benefit for the next three years rather than uprating by the change in the Consumer Prices Index. These estimates are based on the latest projections of CPI.

£

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
Forecast change 1st child	0.65	1.55	2.05
Forecast change subsequent child	0.40	1.00	1.35

To ensure support is better targeted at low-income families with children, the savings from the freeze in child benefit have been recycled into significant increases to the child tax credit. The child element of the child tax credit will be increased by £180 above indexation in 2011-12 and £110 above indexation in 2012-13. As a result, modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 may have a small reduction in child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13; however given the uncertainty around these types of estimates, this change may not be statistically significant.

Child Care Tax Credit

Ian Lavery: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the likely annual loss of income to affected households attributable to the reduction in the childcare element of working tax credit in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency, *(b)* Northumberland, *(c)* England and *(d)* Great Britain for individuals earning (i) up to £16,000, (ii) between £16,000 and £24,000, (iii) between £24,000 and £30,000, (iv) between £30,000 and £40,000, (v) between £40,000 and £50,000 and (vi) £50,000 and above in each of the next four financial years. [51354]

Mr Gauke: All households in which the childcare element of working tax credit is payable will see a fall in the support provided through the childcare element of working tax credit in the next four financial years.

However, the reduction of childcare support to 70% from 80% is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review, for example child tax credits increased £180 real size from April. There are interactions between the measures so estimating the impact of just one measure does not give a clear indication of the full impact on households.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

This distributional analysis is not available at the geographical breakdowns requested.

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in London were in receipt of the childcare element of working tax credit and claiming for eligible childcare costs of more than (i) £100 per week for one child and (ii) £170 for two or more children in the latest period for which figures are available. [52511]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the number of households *(a)* nationally (in the UK) and *(b)* in London that were benefiting from the childcare element of working tax credit by (i) more than £100 a week for one child or (ii) more than £170 a week for two or more children. This is as at December 2010.

Number of children	*Nationally (UK)*	*London*
One	74,860	14,970
Two or more	49,690	10,780

This information is based on tax credits snapshot data. More information about these data can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-dec2010.pdf

Companies

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the level of revenue accruing to the Exchequer as a result of companies moving profits outside the UK in response to the changes to controlled foreign company rules announced in the 2011 Budget. [51544]

Mr Gauke: The Exchequer impact of the CFC interim and full reforms was published at Budget 2011.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6370.htm

Corporation Tax

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely level of corporation tax receipts in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16 based on the economic and fiscal forecasts of the Office for Budget Responsibility in March 2011, before taking into account the corporation tax measures announced in the 2011 Budget. [52379]

Mr Gauke: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts of onshore corporation tax receipts before taking account of all the onshore corporation tax measures announced in Budget 2011 are as follows:

	£ billion
2011-12	38.0
2012-13	40.7
2013-14	43.3
2014-15	45.4
2015-16	47.8

The OBR published its forecast of Corporation Tax receipts for 2010-11 to 2015-16, after taking account of the corporation tax measures announced in Budget 2011, as part of its 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' document on 23 March 2011 (Table 4.7, page 103). A link to the full document is available here:

http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change to the level of business funding in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16 as a result of the changes to the corporation tax package announced in the 2011 Budget. [52380]

Mr Gauke: A number of measures announced in the 2011 Budget are expected to have a positive effect on investment in businesses and the level of finance available to them.

The aggregate effect of the measures announced in Budget 2011 on business funding has not been estimated but the Exchequer impact of individual measures announced in the 2011 Budget is available here:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of the reductions in corporation tax announced in the 2011 Budget on levels of economic growth in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [52523]

Mr Gauke: In their March 2011 Economic and Fiscal Outlook the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) have forecast further increases in business investment from 2011 onwards.

The OBR have stated that the cost of capital is the fundamental determinant of business investment in the long-run. The additional corporate tax measures announced at Budget 2011 provide further reductions in the cost of capital for firms and will promote higher levels of business investment.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the level of business investment arising from implementation of the proposed changes to corporation tax announced in the 2011 Budget in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [52525]

Mr Gauke: Reductions in corporation tax are central to the Government's economic ambition to secure the most competitive tax system among the G20 group of countries.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) stated in their forecast for Budget 2011 that they expect the recovery to be supported by business investment, and that reductions in the rate of corporation tax underpin their forecast for strong business investment growth over the next five years.

The aggregate effect of all the measures announced in Budget 2011 forms part of the OBR's overall assessment of the economic outlook, but the impacts of individual measures are not considered explicitly. However, their forecast is underpinned by Budget measures, and the June Budget 2010 reductions in the rate of corporation tax will reduce the cost of capital. The measures announced in Budget 2011will further lower capital costs and promote investment and economic growth.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional fixed business investment as defined in table 3.7 of the Office for Budget Responsibility March 2011 Economic Outlook he expects to arise from the decrease in the main rate of corporation tax to *(a)* 26 per cent. in 2011-12, *(b)* 25 per cent. in 2012-13, *(c)* 24 per cent. in 2013-14 and *(d)* 23 per cent from 2014-15. [52534]

Mr Gauke: Reductions in corporation tax are central to the Government's economic ambition to secure the most competitive tax system among the G20 group of countries.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) stated in their forecast for Budget 2011 that they expect the recovery to be supported by business investment and that reductions in the rate of corporation tax underpin their forecast for strong business investment growth over the next five years.

The aggregate effect of all the measures announced in Budget 2011 forms part of the OBR's overall assessment of the economic outlook, but the impacts of individual measures are not considered explicitly. However, their forecast is underpinned by Budget measures, and the June Budget 2010 reductions in the rate of corporation tax will reduce the cost of capital. The measures announced in Budget 2011 will further lower capital costs and promote investment and economic growth.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional fixed business investment as defined in table 3.7 of the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 Economic Outlook he expects to arise from the corporation tax changes announced in the March 2011 Budget in each year to 2014-15. [52535]

Mr Gauke: Reductions in corporation tax are central to the Government's economic ambition to secure the most competitive tax system among the G20 group of countries .

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) stated in their forecast for Budget 2011 that they expect the recovery to be supported by business investment, and that reductions in the rate of corporation tax underpin their forecast for strong business investment growth over the next five years.

The aggregate effect of all the measures announced in Budget 2011 forms part of the OBR's overall assessment of the economic outlook, but the impacts of individual measures are not considered explicitly. However, their forecast is underpinned by Budget measures, and the June Budget 2010 reductions in the rate of corporation tax will reduce the cost of capital. The measures announced in Budget 2011 will further lower capital costs and promote investment and economic growth.

Corporation Tax: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and *(c)* East Ayrshire will be affected by the proposed reduction in the rate of corporation tax. [50886]

Mr Gauke: The approximate number of UK businesses with lower tax bills as a result of the reductions in the main rate of corporation tax announced in both the June 2010 and March 2011 Budgets, are estimated to be around 30,000 that pay tax at the main rate, and around 40,000 that are taxed at the main rate but who benefit from marginal relief.

These estimates were published in an impact assessment of the reductions in the main rate of corporation tax announced in the June 2010 Budget, but the number of UK businesses affected are unchanged from those previously published, following the further reductions announced in the March 2011 Budget.

A link to the document is given here;

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/corporation_tax_charge_and_main_rate_for_financial_year_2012.pdf

HMRC do not routinely estimate the number of businesses affected or the fiscal impact of business tax changes at regional or constituency level.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the savings to businesses in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and *(c)* East Ayrshire as a result of the reduction in the rate of corporation tax in each of the next four years. [50887]

Mr Gauke: The UK-wide fiscal impact of the reductions in the main rate of corporation tax announced in the March 2011 Budget, and the previously announced reductions in the June 2010 Budget, were shown in Table 2.1 (page 42) and Table 2.2 (page 44) respectively of the "Budget 2011" document published by HM Treasury on 23 March 2011.

A link to the full document is given here:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

HMRC do not routinely estimate the number of businesses affected or fiscal impact of business tax changes at regional or constituency level.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and (c) East Ayrshire which will be affected by the increase of the small and medium-sized enterprise rate of research and development tax credits; [50888]

(2) what estimate he has made of the monetary value to businesses in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and *(c)* East Ayrshire of the increase in the small and medium-sized enterprise rate of research and development tax credits in each of the next four years. [50889]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available. Estimates of the number of businesses affected and the fiscal impact of changes to the rate of relief are not broken down by geographical region.

Debts

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the measures in the 2011 Budget on *(a)* household debt as a proportion of gross disposable income and *(b)* total household debt in each of the next four years. [51910]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was formed in May 2010 to make an independent assessment of the public finances and the economy.

In March, the OBR published forecasts of the UK economy which took into account the impact of the measures in the 2011 Budget. In the 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' (Cm 8036, paragraph 2.44, page 35), the OBR stated, that aside from inflation, there is no significant adjustment to their economic forecast as a result of the measures announced in the Budget.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officers of his Department since his appointment. [51996]

Justine Greening: There have been no ministerial directions issued since the Chancellor of the Exchequer's appointment.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51517]

Justine Greening: The Government have not set targets for a reduction in the number of posts in HM Treasury or its non-departmental public bodies. Workforce implications of the spending review settlement will depend on internal budget allocations and subsequent management decisions.

Departmental Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department was in each such year. [50841]

Justine Greening: Under the Principal Civil Service Pension scheme (PCSPS), staff can resign their employment and take their pension early on reduced terms if they meet the critieria laid down in the PCSPS rules at no cost to the Department. These staff, are not included in the following table.

Similarly, those taking early retirement on medical grounds are also excluded.

The following table therefore only gives details of staff retiring early and where the Department has incurred costs.

	Number of staff	*Cost £000*
2006 to 2008	10	466
2008 to 2011	8	497

Due to the low numbers of staff leaving on early retirement the years have been amalgamated to avoid identification of individuals.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51388]

Justine Greening: The staff vacancy rate in HM Treasury during 2010-11 was around 5%. No vacancy rate has been assumed in the Department's budget for 2011-12 due to the fluidity of the staffing levels of HM Treasury.

Diesel Vehicles: Snow and Ice

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will issue guidance to parish councils on agreements with farmers on the use of red diesel in vehicles used to clear heavy snow from roads; and if he will make a statement. [51856]

Justine Greening: Farmers can use tractors running on red diesel to clear heavy snow from roads. Full guidance on this can be found in Notice 75—Fuel for road vehicles which is available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Energy: Subsidies

John Cryer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the name is of each subsidy and levy programme in the energy sector which *(a)* does and *(b)* does not count against public expenditure limits. [52539]

Justine Greening: The renewables obligation, feed-in tariffs and warm home discount are classified as levy-funded spending programmes, in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance, including their 2006 classification decision on the renewables obligation:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/economic_trends/ET635Gazely.pdf

There are a number of conventional spending programmes aimed at the energy sector that are funded from within DECC's budget. This includes support for the first carbon capture and storage project and for the offshore wind infrastructure fund. The renewable heat incentive is also conventional spending, funded from general taxation, and budgeted for through annually managed expenditure.

Energy suppliers are subject to a range of regulatory instruments that are not currently classified as public expenditure. Examples include the carbon emissions reduction target, environmental permitting regulations implementing the large combustion plant directive and the regulations governing the introduction of smart meters.

Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of agricultural businesses likely to participate in the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme; and what estimate he has made of the average annual monetary value of the scheme to such businesses. [50813]

Justine Greening: The Government does not collect information to the level of detail required to estimate the number of agricultural businesses that currently participate in the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme or the average annual worth of the scheme to this sector. The tax savings for all types of businesses arising from the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme for energy and water saving technologies is estimated to be £65 million for 2011-12.

Enterprise Zones

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of enterprise zones on levels of *(a)* revenue from corporation tax and *(b)* economic growth (i) within enterprise zones and (ii) nationally. [51784]

Justine Greening: The Government are working with Local Enterprise Partnerships to maximise the economic impact of Enterprise Zones by supporting opportunities for real growth identified by local partners.

The costing for the Enterprise Zones measure is set out at page 20 of "Budget 2011 policy costings", published alongside the Budget:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

Chapter 1 of the document explains which effects are included in the policy costings and how the costings fit into the Office of Budget Responsibility forecasts.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates prior to the 2011 Budget Statement *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department discussed with (i) local authorities and (ii) local enterprise partnerships designation of areas as an enterprise zone. [51951]

Justine Greening: Treasury officials began discussions with local authorities and local enterprise partnerships about the possible location of enterprise zones in March 2011. This followed decisions by the Chancellor about the criteria that would be used to select local enterprise partnership areas, within which the initial round of enterprise zones would be located.

Entrepreneurs: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in Scotland which will be affected by the change in the lifetime limit for entrepreneurs' relief; [50890]

(2) what estimate he has made of the monetary value to businesses in Scotland of the change in the lifetime limit for entrepreneurs' relief in each of the next four years. [50891]

Mr Gauke: No such estimate has been made. However, the Government have published further information about the impact of Budget announcements in the Tax Information and Impact notes.

EU Budget

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid by his Department *(a)* to the EU budget gross, *(b)* to the EU budget net of expenditure which returned to the UK, *(c)* to all EU institutions gross and *(d)* to all EU institutions net of expenditure which returned to the UK in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [51754]

Justine Greening: Details of the UK's gross and net contributions to the EU Budget in the years 2008 and 2009, together with an estimate for 2010 can be found in Table 3.1 (page21) of European Union Finances 2010 (Cm 7978) which is available in the House Library. Other payments, e.g. UK contributions to the European Development Fund (EDF) are paid direct by Departments. The Department for International Development makes payments in the case of EDF, and not HM Treasury.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Nick Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his evidential basis was for setting the base oil price for the return of the fuel duty escalator at $75 per barrel. [51369]

Justine Greening: The Government believe that the increased rate of Supplementary Charge should prevail when the oil price is high, given increased profitability of UK oil and gas production at such times. The Government will set out the final level of the trigger price mechanism after seeking the views of oil and gas companies and motoring groups, but suggest that $75 per barrel would be appropriate.

Exports: Forecasts

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of UK exports directly attributable to measures in the 2011 Budget in each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [51604]

Justine Greening: The Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) was formed in May 2010 to make an independent assessment of the public finances and the economy. On 23 March 2011, the OBR released its official forecast for trade, which incorporates the effect of all the measures announced in the Budget. As the OBR sets out in table 3.7, page 79 of its "March 2011 Economic and Fiscal Outlook (Cm 8036)", it expects exports to grow by 7.9% in 2011, 6.5% in 2012, 6.2% in 2013, 5.7% in 2014 and 5.6% in 2015.

Faster Payments System

Michael Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans HM Revenue and Customs has to introduce the Faster Payments system; and what cost-benefit analysis of the system has been conducted. [51335]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 5 April 2011]*: HMRC plan to introduce the capability to accept Faster Payments during 2012 driven largely by the requirements of an EC Payment Services Directive (PSD) which will have an impact on all banks within the EU.

The costs and benefits of introducing Faster Payments in HMRC will be analysed as part of the project that has been established to manage its implementation.

Financial Services

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that financial services companies which operate in the UK and are not covered by the Project Merlin agreement make a greater contribution to regional economies. [50122]

Mr Hoban: The Government's response to the Green Paper 'Financing a Private Sector Recovery', published in 2010, set out a comprehensive package of Government and industry-led measures to support small businesses. These include:

Additional support for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) over the next four years to enable over £2 billion of lending to viable small businesses that lack collateral or track record; and

increased equity finance, through a £1.5 billion bank-led 'Business Growth Fund' (since increased by a further £1 billion) and through £200 million of additional funding for the 'Enterprise Capital Funds programme', both of which could unlock further debt finance for small and medium-sized businesses, including those in the regions.

In response to the Government's Green Paper on business finance, the British Bankers' Association published the outcomes of their Business Finance Taskforce, which was written in conjunction with the six major UK banks. The Taskforce banks have committed to improving customer relationships through a new Lending Code, ensuring better access to finance and promoting better understanding.

Food: Prices

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects on food prices of speculation on commodities without regulation; and if he will make a statement. [51950]

Justine Greening: Food supply and prices are affected by a number of factors including global energy prices, global stock levels, the size of harvests, changes in exchange rates and national agricultural trade and marketing policies. On balance the Government are sceptical about the degree to which speculation has played a significant causal role. The Government continue to monitor relevant research in this area with interest.

Foreign Companies

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the monetary value to each industrial sector of *(a)* reform of the controlled foreign company rules, *(b)* reform of taxation of foreign branches, *(c)* interim changes to controlled foreign company rules and *(d)* reform of corporate capital gains simplification. [51555]

Mr Gauke: The CFC rules potentially affect all UK companies with overseas subsidiaries. The changes introduced are designed to make the current CFC rules easier to operate, more competitive internationally, and to benefit as many businesses as possible.

The sector profile of the exemption of foreign branches owned by UK companies indicated that certain UK groups with significant overseas operations will be the most immediate beneficiaries of the rule changes.

The simplification of the rules covering corporate capital gains are expected to benefit any corporate groups who undertake the relevant transactions.

Foreign Currency Reserves

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he consulted the Governor of the Bank of England before announcing his decision to increase the UK's holdings of foreign currency reserves; [50810]

(2) what advice on foreign currency holdings he received from the *(a)* Debt Management Office and *(b)* Bank of England prior to taking the decision to increase UK holdings in foreign currency reserves. [50833]

Mr Hoban: As set out in the Debt Management Office (DMO) Executive Agency Framework document, Treasury Ministers set the annual financing remit for gilts, including any sterling financing for the reserves, having regard to advice from the chief executive of the DMO. The Framework document is published on the DMO's website at:

http://www.dmo.gov.uk/documentview.aspx?docname=publications/corpgovernance/fwork040405.pdf&page

In its role as HM Treasury's agent for the Official Reserves, the Bank of England provided advice to HM Treasury on the financing of the reserves.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to purchase overseas bonds as part of his policy to increase holdings of foreign currency reserves in any of the next four financial years. [50831]

Mr Hoban: The funds of the Exchange Equalisation Account are predominantly invested in securities issued, or guaranteed, by the national Governments of the United States, euro-area countries and Japan.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects on *(a)* levels of trade, *(b)* financial stability and *(c)* economic growth of an increase in the UK's foreign currency reserves. [50832]

Mr Hoban: The direct effects of the plans for the UK's foreign currency reserves on trade, financial stability and economic growth are negligible. However, the additional financing will meet potential calls from the International Monetary Fund, helping to ensure the stability of the global monetary system.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects on the value of sterling of increasing levels of UK holdings of foreign currencies. [50834]

Mr Hoban: As in the previous financial year, the Government plan to hedge most of the foreign exchange exposure for assets purchased using new sterling financing. This means the Government plans no net selling of sterling when undertaking these purchases and expects no material impact on the value of sterling.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the interest which would accrue to the Exchequer from increasing holdings in foreign currency *(a)* cash reserves and *(b)* bonds by £18 billion in the next four financial years. [50835]

Mr Hoban: As set out in the Debt and Reserves Management Report 2011 the Government will raise £6 billion of sterling financing for the Official Reserves in 2011-12. The Government envisages sterling financing for the Official Reserves being held at a similar level on average over the three years up to, and including, 2014-15; making £24 billion in total. The full report is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_debtreserves.htm

Any increase in foreign currency holdings arising from this financing will depend upon calls from the International Monetary Fund and exchange rate movements. In accordance with the service level agreement, the Bank manages the official reserves so as to ensure adherence to Treasury policy aims and thereby maintain their liquidity and security, and subject to that, maximise the return from holding reserves.

The actual interest received on increased foreign currency holdings will depend on the asset allocation chosen and market interest rates over the next four years. Interest received on the reserves is recorded in the annual accounts available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukecon_eea_index.htm

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has for the level of the UK's foreign currency reserve holdings of *(a)* euros, *(b)* US dollars and *(c)* yen in each of the next four financial years; [50989]

(2) what plans he has for the level of the UK's foreign currency reserves in each of the next four financial years. [50990]

Mr Hoban: As at end February 2011, the gross reserves stood at $85.4 billion (£52.5 billion) of which $47.6 billion (£29.3 billion) was foreign currency.

As set out in the Debt and Reserves Management Report 2011, the Government will raise £6 billion of sterling financing for the Official Reserves in 2011-12. The Government envisages sterling financing for the Official Reserves being held at a similar level on average over the three years up to, and including, 2014-15; making £24 billion in total. This sterling financing will be sufficient to meet potential calls on the Official Reserves from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The full report is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_debtreserves.htm

The overall level of the UK's foreign currency reserves over the next four years will depend on actual calls from the International Monetary Fund, exchange rate movements and changes in the value of assets held. The level of the reserves is reported on a monthly basis on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_notices_index.htm

In addition to the factors above, the levels of individual currency holdings within the Official Reserves will depend on asset allocation decisions made over the next four years.

The current currency breakdown of the reserves is available on the Bank of England website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/reserves/index.htm

The framework within which these asset allocation decisions are currently made is available on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/management_official_reserves.pdf

Fuels: Prices

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely increase in fuel bills attributable to the tax on carbon proposed in the 2011 Budget in each year from 2013-14 to 2019-20. [51817]

Justine Greening: An explanation of the impact of the carbon price floor on wholesale electricity prices and the likely average bill impact is given in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

Gift Aid

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that changes to the gift aid scheme announced in the 2011 Budget will bring maximum benefit to genuine charities; and what steps he plans to take to prevent diverting resources away from genuine charities. [51536]

Justine Greening: The changes to the Gift Aid scheme announced in the 2011 Budget will benefit a wide range of donors and charities by increasing the income of charities while reducing their administrative burdens. Many of the changes were recommended by the Gift Aid Forum and, following implementation, these changes will be kept under review.

Charities may only benefit from Gift Aid if they meet the definition of a charity for tax purposes in Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010. Under that legislation HMRC applies a number of checks to help ensure that only genuine charities benefit from Gift Aid and other tax reliefs.

Government: Assets

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 474W, on Urenco, which publicly-owned assets the Government is considering for sale; and if he will make a statement. [51860]

Justine Greening: We publish statements on assets we intend to dispose of at appropriate moments from time to time. The latest was at Budget 2011. Where decisions are made to use proceeds from such disposals for the Green Investment Bank, we will also announce this.

The Government intend to continue their policy of only announcing sales or commercialisations where the major policy decisions have been reached, for example the terms of a sale, and where we are confident that a transaction could take place within 12 months.

Green Investment Bank

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 1.112 of the Budget Red Book, March 2011, whether his Department made an estimate prior to the 2011 Budget of the amount of money the Green Investment Bank could leverage if it were allowed to borrow in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2014 and *(d)* 2015; and if he will make a statement. [52496]

Justine Greening: The Budget announced that the Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be given borrowing powers from 2015-16 and once public sector net debt is falling as percentage of GDP. The amount of borrowing that it will be possible to leverage will be dependent on the model taken forward, including the mechanism for borrowing and the risk profile of the institution's investment portfolio.

The £3 billion initial capitalisation for the GIB announced at the Budget will be used to leverage significant additional private investment into green infrastructure, such that there could be in the region of £18 billion of investment by 2014-15 as a result of the GIB.

High-Risk Corporate Programme

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases have been dealt with under HM Revenue and Customs' high-risk corporate programme in each year since its inception. [49960]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 30 March 2011]*: The number of cases dealt with under HM Revenue and Custom's High Risk Corporates Programme is as follows:

	Settled	*Opened*
2006-07	2	4
2007-08	3	11
2008-09	6	4
2009-10	12	7
2010-11	7	13

Import Duties and VAT

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of customs duty and value added tax foregone on the contents of packages inbound to the UK identified as containing gifts which did not contain gifts in the latest period for which figures are available. [52240]

Mr Gauke: It is not possible to provide such an estimate. Information is not gathered at a level of detail that would allow such estimates to be made.

Income Tax

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* the number of people who would pay less tax as a result of and *(b)* the cost to the Exchequer arising from increasing the income tax personal allowance to £8,205 immediately and then in £100 increments to £10,005 in 2013-14 with the same threshold levels in 2014-15 and 2015-16. [52143]

Mr Gauke: The Exchequer costs of increasing the personal allowance can be approximated from Table 1.6 "Direct effects of illustrative tax changes", available on the HM Revenue and Custom's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

Budget 2011 announced that the personal allowance for under 65s will increase by a further £630 to £8,105 in 2012-13, reducing income tax for 25 million individuals. A similar number of individuals would benefit from further increases in the personal allowance, consistent with the Government's objective to support lower and middle income earners by raising the personal allowance to £10,000, with real terms progress towards that goal every year.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the likely yield from the 50 pence rate of income tax in each of the next four financial years. [51067]

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue which was raised by the 50 pence rate of income tax in 2010-11. [51556]

Mr Gauke: These estimates are available in the March Budget 2010 report, (table A11 on page 140), available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100407010852/http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/budget2010_annexa.pdf

The Government believe the 50% rate could do lasting damage to the UK economy if it were to become permanent. The Chancellor has asked HMRC to assess the revenue raised by this measure after self-assessment data for the 2010-11 tax year are available.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the terms of reference are for the HM Revenue and Customs review of the 50 pence rate of income tax. [51557]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor has asked HMRC to assess the revenue raised by the 50% rate using relevant self-assessment data.

Income Tax: Tax Yields

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much tax was collected from taxpayers paying the higher rate of income tax in 1988-89; [51769]

(2) what proportion of income tax was paid by the top 1% of taxpayers in 1988-89. [51883]

Mr Gauke: Taxpayers were liable to pay an estimated £46.5 billion of total income tax in 1988-89. Taxpayers paying at 40% were liable for an estimated £15.6 billion.

The top 1% of taxpayers by total income in 1988-89 were liable for 15% of total income tax liabilities.

The figures provided are estimates of income tax liabilities based on the 1988-89 Survey of Personal Incomes. Married couples were treated as one taxpaying unit in 1988-89.

Individual Savings Accounts: Children

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much additional saving by individuals the Government expects to arise from the introduction of Junior ISAs; [51796]

(2) how many savers in Junior ISAs he expects to have household incomes between *(a)* 0 and £10,000, *(b)* £10,000 and £20,000, *(c)* £20,000 and £30,000, *(d)* £30,000 and £40,000 and *(e)* £50,000 and over; and how much he expects to be saved by households in each income band. [51797]

Mr Hoban: The Government believe that Junior ISAs will create the conditions for families to save more for their children than would otherwise happen.

For the purposes of estimating the Exchequer impacts we have estimated that 20% of eligible children will have a Junior ISA. However, this is not a target.

The Government have made no estimates of the take-up levels of Junior ISA accounts among the income groups specified by the hon. Member. This is a voluntary scheme, but the Government hope that parents across all income groups will choose to save for their child's future through Junior ISA accounts and are encouraging providers to set low minimum payments to help facilitate this.

Land Registry

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer has received from Land Registry operations in each of the last 10 years. [51321]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 5 April 2011]:* In the past 10 years, the following amounts have been paid into the Exchequer, representing the cost of capital charge on the public dividend capital vested in the Land Registry when it became a trading fund.

	£000
2000-01	15,624
2001-02	18.102
2002-03	22,312
2003-04	22,847
2004-05	12,793
2005-06	14,229
2006-07	16,548
2007-08	19,709
2008-09	18,572
2009-10	15,279

In addition, the Exchequer received £114.188 million in 2003-04 from the Land Registry as an equity withdrawal in respect of its accumulated reserves and cash balances.

Loans: Foreign Nationals

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department has underwritten any bank loans given to foreign nationals residing in the UK since 2006; [52363]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with banks on the repayment of bank loans given to foreign nationals residing in the UK. [52364]

Mr Hoban: Decisions about whether to lend to specific individuals or businesses remain commercial decisions for banks and building societies. It would be inappropriate for the Government to intervene in these decisions.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire (Mr Donohoe) of 17 November 2010, 16 December 2010 and 13 January 2011, on mortgage regulation. [51612]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all hon. Members on 10 December 2010 to set out the Government's overall position on the Mortgage Market Review. This letter was in response to any outstanding correspondence that hon. Members may have raised.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire of 15 October 2010, 26 November 2010, 12 January 2011 and 10 February 2011, on Crown Currency Exchange. [51613]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all hon. Members on 18 November 2010 to set out the Government's overall position on Crown Currency Exchange. This letter was in response to any outstanding correspondence that hon. Members may have raised.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire of 16 September 2010, 26 October 2010, 25 November 2010, 11 January 2011 and 10 February 2011, on deregulated commodity speculation. [51614]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all hon. Members on 1 December 2010 to set out the Government's overall position on agricultural derivates markets. This letter was in response to any outstanding correspondence that hon. Members may have raised.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon) of 3 February 2011 on bank mortgage interest rates. [51673]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

National Insurance: Income Tax

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has set a timetable for decision-making on his proposed merger of the national insurance and taxation systems. [51919]

Mr Gauke: The Government believes that integrating the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions (NICs) can remove distortions, reduce burdens on business and improve fairness for individuals. However, it recognises that any change will be complex and involve a wide range of policy and implementation issues.

An initial consultation document will be published later this year to consult on the options, stages and timing of reform. Responses to the consultation will inform future decisions on the timing of any subsequent reforms.

National Savings

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the provision of tax exempt National Savings and Investment products in the last year for which figures are available. [51749]

Justine Greening: The following table sets out the total tax foregone for NS&I tax free products, for 2009-10, as the most recent published information.

	£
April 2009	21,388,588
May 2009	24,209,757
June 2009	16,622,832
July 2009	5,934,106
August 2009	11,301,062
September 2009	20,958,373
October 2009	14,638,705
November 2009	19,032,714
December 2009	22,378,944
January 2010	24,914,262
February 2010	24,203,411
March 2010	25,418,752
Total for 2009-10	219,133,295

Offshore Industry

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he received from representatives of the UK oil and gas industry between the June 2010 Budget and the 2011 Budget; and on what dates. [51564]

Justine Greening: The Government have ongoing meetings and engagement with the oil and gas industry.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on investment in oil and gas production in the North Sea of the announcements made in the 2011 Budget. [51615]

Justine Greening: The Government do not expect a significant impact on investment or production in the forecast period as a consequence of this measure.

As set out in the Budget, in cases where the tax change has made previously commercial new projects uncommercial, the Government will consider with the industry the case for introducing a new category of qualifying field for field allowance to support marginal fields.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation he undertook with the oil and gas industries on the increase in the North Sea oil supplementary charge; and on what dates such consultation took place. [51616]

Justine Greening: It is not the current (or previous) Government's policy to consult on tax rate changes in advance of Budget announcements.

PAYE

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs about members of the public receiving an incorrect tax coding; and if he will make a statement. [52057]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials meet representatives from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

PAYE: Social Enterprises

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on proposals to extend the Simplified PAYE Deduction Scheme to include non-profit community member organisations; and what assessment he has made of such representations. [51137]

Mr Gauke: We are not aware of any representations in respect of this issue.

Pensions: Uprating

Nick Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has undertaken research on the effects of using the consumer price index when uprating benefits for army invalid pensioners and war widows under pensionable age. [51368]

Mr Robathan: I have been asked to reply.

No specific research has been undertaken on the effect of the change on this benefit group. The Treasury took the decision to change from retail price index to consumer price index (CPI) across all areas of the public service. Calculations and research were not carried out within this Department.

The Ministry of Defence calculates war pensions benefits programme costs and produces annual forecasts and estimates. The estimate for financial year 2011-12 prepared in January 2010 was reduced by 2.8% to £938 million in January 2011. However, this takes into account a number of changed assumptions including revised mortality rates in the number of claimants or potential claimants and the use of CPI as the basis for indexation.

Public Expenditure

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the distributional impact on households by 2014-15 of each measure announced in *(a)* the March 2010 Budget, *(b)* the June 2010 Budget, *(c)* the comprehensive spending review and (d) the 2011 Budget as a proportion of net income in 2010-11, including benefits in kind from public services; [52159]

(2) what estimate he has made of the distributional impact of each *(a)* tax, *(b)* tax credit and *(c)* benefit measure announced in (i) the March 2010 Budget, (ii) the June 2010 Budget, (iii) the comprehensive spending review and (iv) the 2011 Budget as a proportion of net expenditure in each expenditure decile in 2012-13; [52160]

(3) what estimate he has made of the distributional impact of each *(a)* tax, *(b)* tax credit and *(c)* benefit measure announced in (i) the March 2010 Budget, (ii) the June 2010 Budget, (iii) the comprehensive spending review and (iv) the 2011 Budget (A) as a proportion of net income in each income decile, (B) in cash terms in each expenditure decile and (C) in cash terms in each income decile in 2012-13. [51989]

Mr Gauke: The Government have gone further than any previous Government in publishing detailed distributional analysis of tax, tax credit and benefit decisions. This analysis was first published at the June Budget 2010, and was expanded at the spending review 2010 to include the distributional impact of public spending decisions. The analysis was most recently updated at Budget 2011.

It shows the cumulative impact of tax, tax credit and benefit measures announced by this Government along with changes announced in the March Budget 2010 or earlier (such as changes to national insurance contributions) on which the Government have introduced or will be introducing legislation. The data sources document, available from the HM Treasury website, contains a full list of the measures it has been possible to capture.

Chart A.2 shows the impact of all tax, tax credit and benefit measures in cash terms by income decile in 2012-13 while chart A3 shows this information as a proportion of income.

Chart A.4 shows the impact of all tax, tax credit and benefit measures in cash terms by expenditure decile in 2012-13 while chart A.5 shows this information as a proportion of expenditure.

Chart A.6 shows the overall impact of the consolidation on households in 2014-15 as a per cent of 2010-11 net income, including households' benefits in kind from public services.

Public Finance

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the Government deficit at May 2010 he has attributed to *(a)* spending and *(b)* reduced tax revenues. [51971]

Mr Gauke: The Office for Budget Responsibility published their pre-Budget forecast in June 2010. This contained projections to 2015-16 of Public Sector Current Receipts and Total Managed Expenditure.

Public Sector: Pensions

Michael Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was *(a)* received in contributions and *(b)* paid out by each public sector pension scheme in each year since 1981. [47157]

Danny Alexander: *[holding answer 16 March 2011]:* Expenditure on public service pensions reflects the pensions promises made to public servants over the last few decades and is dependent on a range of factors including the number of pensions in payment, the size of these pensions and also annual inflation.

Contribution receipts reflect the promises being made to today's public servants and are dependent on the number of individuals accruing a pension and the salaries they earn.

Receipts and expenditure are not expected to balance. For example, the level of receipts can exceed expenditure when a work force is growing. This is a separate issue to the long-term sustainability of a scheme, which is to do with the ability of the scheme to meet liabilities as they fall due.

Detailed information and data, including past levels of expenditure and receipts, for individual public service pension schemes are available from the relevant Government Department, and for many of the schemes are published in annual resource accounts, copies of which are placed in the House Library.

For the year 2001-02 onwards, the aggregate level of contribution receipts and expenditure for all the centrally administered unfunded public service schemes is published annually in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, copies of which are placed in the House Library and available online at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm

Aggregate levels of expenditure and receipts for all unfunded schemes (except the locally administered police and fire pension schemes) as published are shown in the following table.

£ million

	Expenditure	*Contribution receipts*
2001-02	14,773	9,861
2002-03	16,518	12,610
2003-04	16,080	14,279
2004-05	16,377	15,119
2005-06	17,641	17,368
2006-07	19,080	17,934
2007-08	21,356	19,066
2008-09	22,525	19,439
2009-10	24,276	21,167

In 2001, the methodology for charging and accounting for unfunded public service pensions was revised and comparable information from before this date is not available centrally.

The Office of Budget Responsibility forecasts levels of expenditure and receipts for all the unfunded schemes going forward.

Information on the funded local government pension scheme is presented in chapter 7 of the Local Government Finance Statistics England, a summary is shown in the following table and the document is available online at the following address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/financialstatistics202010

£ million

	Expenditure	*Contribution receipts*
2001-02	3,463	3,756
2002-03	3,623	4,144
2003-04	3,770	4,551
2004-05	4,014	4,975
2005-06	4,272	5,700
2006-07	4,757	6,231
2007-08	5,222	6,689
2008-09	5,600	7,326

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of excluding feed-in tariff businesses from the Enterprise Investment scheme and Venture Capital Trusts on the Government's capacity to encourage community-owned renewable energy schemes. [52189]

Mr Gauke: Legislation will be introduce in the Finance Bill 2012 providing that companies whose trade consists wholly or substantially in the receipt of feed-in tariffs will only be eligible for the Enterprise Investment scheme or Venture Capital Trusts where commercial electricity generation commences before 6 April 2012. The change will not apply to any shares issued before 23 March 2011.

This change is designed to improve the focus of the schemes on smaller, higher risk companies. Draft legislation will be published for consultation before it is implemented.

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Tax Avoidance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the level of avoidance of stamp duty on the purchase of homes through the use of companies, partnerships, or limited liability partnerships in *(a)* each of the last four financial years and *(b)* the next four financial years. [51068]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) keeps tax revenues for all taxes under review. HMRC intends to include further details about the avoidance risk to stamp duty land tax later in the year, in the 'Measuring Tax Gaps' publication for 2011.

Sterling: Valuation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on the short and medium-term valuation of Sterling. [51535]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor has frequent discussions with the Governor of the Bank of England on a wide range of issues including prospects for the UK economy.

Tax Allowances

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 38W, on tax allowances, what information his Department holds on the distributional effect of tax reliefs and allowances relating to *(a)* pensions and *(b)* individual savings accounts. [51605]

Mr Hoban: The available information on the distributional aspect of pensions and individual savings accounts as published by HM Revenue and Customs on their website can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7-10-may10.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/isa/table9-7-07-08.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/isa/table9-10-07-08.pdf

Tax Avoidance

Chris Bryant: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received from Lord Lawson of Blaby on tax loopholes operated through the Channel Islands; [51167]

(2) what advice he has received on closing tax loopholes used by British companies in the Channel Islands to avoid paying tax in the UK. [51168]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 5 April 2011]:* Treasury Ministers receive advice from HM Treasury and HMRC officials on the range of tax policy issues. This includes advice on risks to the Exchequer from tax avoidance and how they might be addressed. Ministers also receive representations from representative bodies, businesses, trade associations and individuals.

As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the level of attrition into new avoidance schemes in calculating the revenue he estimates will accrue from the disguised remuneration avoidance measure announced in the 2011 Budget for each year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [51538]

Mr Gauke: The assumptions and methodologies underlying the costing for the disguised remuneration measure are set out at page 46 of Budget 2011 policy costings, published alongside the Budget:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

Tax Credits

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely change in the level of research and development activity which will result from the tax credit rate increase for small and medium-sized enterprises announced in the 2011 Budget. [51545]

Mr Gauke: The policy costing published at Budget assumed that for every pound of tax revenue foregone, caused by raising the rate of research and development (R&D) tax relief for small and medium-sized enterprises, one extra pound would be spent on R&D. The increase in R&D expenditure is expected to be around £20 million to £30 million per annum.

Budget policy costings are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

Tax Credits: Business

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the deadweight cost of the change in the rate of the research and development tax credit for small and medium-sized enterprises announced in the 2011 Budget. [51539]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the Exchequer impact of raising the rate of research and development (R&D) tax relief for small and medium-sized enterprises were published at Budget in the policy costings' document available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

The published static costing is the Exchequer impact with no increase in the forecasted expenditure on R&D as a result of the measure.

Taxation

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 2.195 of the 2011 Budget, if he will make it his policy not to bring within the scope of the taxation system incapacitated persons who are not taxed at present. [51829]

Mr Gauke: As announced at Budget, we are about to consult formally on modernising the definition of incapacitated persons used for direct tax purposes. This definition is used mainly to identify who is responsible for meeting tax obligations under the income tax self assessment system where a person is mentally incapable of doing so. This consultation proposes changes to the language that defines how those persons are defined for this purpose, while keeping the scope of those covered by the definition the same as now. The document will not propose any changes to the scope of taxation itself.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of revenue which will accrue to the Exchequer from changes in non-domiciled taxation announced in the 2011 Budget. [51541]

Mr Gauke: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the "Taxation of Non-Domiciles" section of the Budget 2011 Policy Costings document which is published on the HM Treasury website at the following address

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_policycostings.htm

Taxation: Environment Protection

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to the tax on carbon proposed in the 2011 Budget in each year from 2013-14 to 2019-20. [51983]

Justine Greening: The impact of the carbon price floor on the level of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK is set out in the Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of his proposed carbon tax which will be passed on to *(a)* electricity consumers, *(b)* electricity generating businesses and *(c)* other groups. [52145]

Justine Greening: An explanation of the impact of the carbon price floor on wholesale electricity prices is set out in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

Taxation: Fuels

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects of the differential in price between diesel and unleaded petrol on the economic growth potential of the UK; and if he will consider the merits of using the tax and duty regime to equalise the price at the pump of diesel and unleaded petrol. [50870]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 365W, to the hon. Member for Midlothian (Mr Hamilton).

The price difference between petrol and diesel varies over time and is determined by market forces. A neutral excise duty treatment of diesel and petrol supports market transparency. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review.

Taxation: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's most recent estimate is of the likely cost to the public purse of pensions tax relief in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [52252]

Mr Gauke: There are a number of ways in which pensions tax relief can be received, including from contributions and investment income of funds.

The estimated cost of the various tax reliefs relating to pensions are published by HM Revenue and Customs on their website and can be found at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7-9.pdf

The estimated cost of each of these reliefs in future years is not available.

Unemployment

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of unemployment in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland of the increases in duty under the beer duty escalator. [51547]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 379-81W.

Unpaid Taxes

Mr Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley and *(c)* London have received demands for unpaid tax from HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months. [50399]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available at constituency or regional level.

VAT

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the application of HM Revenue and Customs rules to value added tax on bartering transactions in respect of the gifting of energy provided from photovoltaic installations; and if he will make a statement. [50711]

Mr Gauke: The Government have received no representations on this matter. HM Revenue and Customs has already issued guidance on the treatment for VAT purposes of income received by property owners through the generation and export tariffs, and it is discussing with various interested parties the position where this income instead accrues to companies installing photovoltaic panels.

VAT: Sports Clubs

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on ending the charging of value added tax on payments of Government grants to sports clubs; and what assessment he has made of such representations. [51211]

Mr Gauke: The Government have not received any representations on this matter. In general Government grants do not represent payment for any services supplied to the Government and thus no VAT is due on them.

Grant income may, of course, be used to purchase goods and services on which VAT is borne. The expectation is that the bid for the grant will reflect this.

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on exempting community amateur sports clubs from value added tax on capital expenditure. [51220]

Mr Gauke: The Government have not received any representations on this matter. Many amateur sports clubs have been able to register with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) and benefit from a range of tax reliefs, similar to the tax reliefs normally given to charities. These reliefs include exemption from corporation tax on interest, on trading income and income from property (within limits) and capital gains tax on disposals of assets. There are a number of specific VAT reliefs for charities including the construction of certain buildings. Unfortunately, there are no equivalent VAT reliefs for CASCs. The application of VAT reliefs is governed by European agreements that have been signed by successive governments. Under these agreements, we cannot extend or introduce new zero rates to cover supplies to CASCs.

VAT: Construction

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on measures to end the charging of value added tax on construction costs for all schools which open sports facilities out of hours; and what assessment he has made of such representations. [51212]

Mr Gauke: The Government have not received any representations on this matter. The construction of school buildings can qualify for the zero rate of VAT if they are intended to be used by charities at least 95% for non business purposes.

Water Charges

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer over what period he plans the funds he provided in the 2011 Budget to apply to reduce water charges in the South West to be disbursed to South West water bill payers. [50463]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The Government pledged in the Budget that we will consult on proposals to support households which face water affordability pressures, and those in areas with particularly high water bills, such as the south-west.

We will provide more details on the support that will be provided following this consultation.

Winter Fuel Allowance

Mr Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what factors he took into account when making the decision to reduce the level of winter fuel allowance paid to those over 75 years; [50440]

(2) for what reasons the annual winter fuel payment for people over 80 is to be reduced from £400 to £300; and if he will make a statement. [50685]

Justine Greening: As set out in the spending review, winter fuel payments will continue as budgeted for by the previous Government. Winter fuel payments from winter 2011-12 will be worth £200 for pensioner households, or £300 for households with someone aged over 80.

The spending review also announced that cold weather payments have been permanently increased to £25 a week during periods of very cold weather. The lowest income pensioner households will also be among those benefiting from the warm home discount on their electricity bill.

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings he expects to accrue to the Exchequer as a result of his decision to reduce the level of winter fuel allowance in each of the next five years. [50986]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

Winter fuel payments for winter 2011-12 will be £200 for households with someone who has reached women's state pension age and is under 80 and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over. This return to the standard rates of winter fuel payment is exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government. It does not, therefore, represent a saving to the Exchequer.

An additional temporary amount of winter fuel payment was paid for the last three winters, taking the rates to £250 for households with someone who had reached women's state pension age and was under 80 and £400 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

Figures in the following table show the estimated difference between forecasted expenditure of winter fuel payments at the standard rates compared to if they were continued at the higher temporary rates over the next five years. As noted above, this difference is not a saving to the Exchequer, compared with previous plans.

£ million, cash terms

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Total winter fuel payments at standard rates	2,140	2,120	2,110	2,090	2,080
Total winter fuel payments at temporary rates	2,730	2,710	2,690	2,680	2,660
Difference	590	590	590	590	580

Notes:

1. Figures are in cash terms rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. Difference is estimated based on unrounded figures and then rounded to the nearest £10 million. Therefore they may differ from the difference between the rounded figures available in the table.
3. Figures include winter fuel payments made to eligible recipients now resident in European economic area countries or Switzerland.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Forensic Science Service: Contracts

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts the Forensic Science Service has been awarded in each of the last three years. [50011]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) have provided details of contracts they have been awarded in the last three years.

Awarded in 2008

1. South West, North West and Wales region all services tender—all services:

The SW, NW and Wales contract was for initial three years and has since been extended to 31 March 2013. The FSS was awarded part of this tender alongside five other providers.

2. HMRC—all services tender:

The FSS won the drugs, fingerprints and tachographs work. Three year contract.

3. National Forensic Framework Agreement (NFFA)—all services:

FSS was awarded a place on the framework for each of the 14 lots.

4. Thames Valley and Surrey—SOS services:

2008 contract was initially awarded to another supplier but later awarded to the FSS. Contract was signed for six months in March 2009, but still ongoing.

Awarded 2009

5. West Midlands Region (West Midlands, Staffordshire, West Mercia and Warwickshire)—DNA and Drugs:

Awarded March 2009 DNA Contract. Three year contract.

6. Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)—Homicide and Violent:

Awarded May 2009 Lot 7 of the National Framework for Homicide and Violent Crime.

7. Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)—Specialist DNA services:

Awarded October 2009 for initial period of one year to be extended in periods of one year.

8. NPIA—Environmental Monitoring of CAS Sample Preparation Room:

Awarded December 2009

9. West Yorkshire police—mobile phones:

Awarded December 2009.

Awarded 2010

10. East Midlands Region (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire)—all services:

Awarded May 2010 to supply all services for region relating to NFFA Lot 8 Sexual Offences and Lot 11—Road Traffic Investigation.

11. Metropolitan Police Service—mobile phones:

Awarded place on E-Forensics Framework December 2010 along with multiple other suppliers—awaiting contracts.

Forensic Science Service: Research

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Forensic Science Service spent on research and development in each of the last three years. [50010]

James Brokenshire: Information provided by the Forensic Science Service (FSS) suggests that operating costs of their Research and Development Group were £4.01 million and £4.11 million for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years respectively. The most recent estimate received from the company for the 2010-11 financial year shows operating costs for the Research and Development Group of £3.3 million.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average annual number of deaths which will be avoided through implementation of her proposals for a minimum price for alcohol. [51312]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is currently analysing the impact of the ban on the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT. This analysis seeks to incorporate recent HM Revenue and Customs estimates of the responsiveness of demand to price and the Sheffield Alcohol Policy Model analysis of the associated social harms. It will inform an estimate on the average annual number of deaths avoided. These data will be published as part of an impact assessment to accompany legislation on the ban.

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal advice she has received on the introduction of a minimum unit price for alcohol within a local authority area. [52156]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has received legal advice on a range of issues pertaining to alcohol pricing, including the effect of introducing a minimum price per unit of alcohol within a local authority area. The content of legal advice is subject to legal professional privilege and it is not appropriate to set it out at this stage other than in terms of the areas to which it relates.

Animal Experiments

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the use of monkeys for experimental purposes in laboratories. [52027]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government recognizes that many people have a particular concern about the use of non-human primates. Under the terms of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 they, together with some other species, are given special protection and can only be used where animals of no other species are suitable.

Antisocial Behaviour: Prosecutions

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 there have been in respect of *(a)* noise, *(b)* graffiti and fly posting and *(c)* waste and litter in each (i) local authority and (ii) police authority basic command unit in each region of England and Wales since January 2008. [52387]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for criminal offences of waste disposal, littering and noise, are likely to be proceeded against under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Noise Act 1996. The number of defendants proceeded against under these statutes, by Government office region and police force area, England and Wales 2008 and 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in tables 1 and 2. It is not possible to identify separately offences of graffiti and fly-posting from other criminal damage offences.

Court proceedings data held centrally are not available at local authority or police authority basic command unit level.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Table 1: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal, littering and noise offences, by Government office region and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1,2,3,4]

	2008				
Area	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(8)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.87, 93 and 94*	*Noise Act 1996*
North East					
Cleveland	8	3	—	95	—
Durham	3	4	2	88	—
Northumbria	39	2	—	334	—
Sub-total	50	9	2	517	—
North West					
Cheshire	15	12	2	5	—
Cumbria	12	2	3	17	2
Greater Manchester	46	4	34	414	—
Lancashire	37	15	8	48	—
Merseyside	18	2	10	680	—
Sub-total	128	35	57	1,164	2

Table 1: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal, littering and noise offences, by Government office region and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1,2,3,4]

	2008				
Area	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(8)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.87, 93 and 94*	*Noise Act 1996*
Yorkshire and Humberside					
Humberside	3	1	1	57	—
North Yorkshire	8	5	—	12	3
South Yorkshire	8	28	3	130	—
West Yorkshire	9	2	53	182	1
Sub-total	28	36	57	381	4
East Midlands					
Derbyshire	15	3	8	21	—
Leicestershire	7	6	2	25	—
Lincolnshire	9	1	1	8	—
Northamptonshire	13	—	—	58	—
Nottinghamshire	2	6	20	86	—
Sub-total	46	16	31	198	—
West Midlands					
Staffordshire	31	6	1	11	1
Warwickshire	6	1	—	1	—
West Mercia	8	4	9	21	—
West Midlands	24	5	8	473	3
Sub-total	69	16	18	506	4
East of England					
Bedfordshire	2	—	4	6	—
Cambridgeshire	5	—	4	229	—
Essex	7	4	7	105	—
Hertfordshire	15	4	6	4	—
Norfolk	8	—	—	4	—
Suffolk	13	3	6	5	—
Sub-total	50	11	27	353	—
London					
City of London	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	78	19	34	111	8
Sub-total	78	19	34	111	8
South East					
Hampshire	8	4	2	55	1
Kent	28	13	4	77	—
Surrey	4	2	3	—	—
Sussex	9	—	13	4	—
Thames Valley	52	16	10	26	1
Sub-total	101	35	32	162	2
South West					
Avon and Somerset	11	4	13	26	—
Devon and Cornwall	17	4	9	48	2
Dorset	10	—	—	8	—
Gloucestershire	4	2	—	9	—
Wiltshire	2	1	1	3	—
Sub-total	44	11	23	94	2
Wales					
Dyfed-Powys	2	2	3	17	—
Gwent	4	1	14	11	—

Table 1: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal, littering and noise offences, by Government office region and police force area, England and Wales, 2008[1,2,3,4]

	2008				
Area	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(8)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.87, 93 and 94*	*Noise Act 1996*
North Wales	7	1	7	22	—
South Wales	17	8	55	35	—
Sub-total	30	12	79	85	—
England and Wales	624	200	360	3,571	22

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Corresponding offence descriptions for statutes are as follows:

Environmental Protection Act 1990:

s.33(8) Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence;

s.33(9) Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence;

s.33(6) Contravening conditions of a waste management licence;

s.87 Deposit litter;

s.93 and 94 Failure to comply with Street Litter Control Notice.

Noise Act 1996:

Responsible for noise exceeding prescribed level from premises after service of notice.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal, littering and noise offences, by Government office region and police force area, England and Wales, 2009[1,2]

	2009				
	Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(8)	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.87, 93 and 94*	*Noise Act 1996*
North East					
Cleveland	15	3	—	248	—
Durham	6	—	—	79	—
Northumbria	42	6	—	247	14
Sub-total	63	9	—	574	14
North West					
Cheshire	7	8	1	24	—
Cumbria	4	8	2	49	—
Greater Manchester	37	7	—	389	—
Lancashire	35	10	13	28	—
Merseyside	11	10	—	810	—
Sub-total	94	43	16	1,300	—
Yorkshire and Humberside					
Humberside	17	7	—	340	1
North Yorkshire	15	20	—	18	—
South Yorkshire	6	12	1	121	—
West Yorkshire	66	6	3	178	1
Sub-total	104	45	4	657	2
East Midlands					
Derbyshire	12	5	1	47	—
Leicestershire	19	2	—	31	4
Lincolnshire	2	1	2	14	—
Northamptonshire	19	3	—	39	—

Table 2: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal, littering and noise offences, by Government office region and police force area, England and Wales, 2009[1,2]

	2009				
	Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(8)	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.87, 93 and 94*	*Noise Act 1996*
Nottinghamshire	27	8	1	123	—
Sub-total	79	19	4	254	4
West Midlands					
Staffordshire	18	10	1	29	—
Warwickshire	7	1	—	—	—
West Mercia	14	2	2	14	2
West Midlands	34	10	1	335	5
Sub-total	73	23	4	378	7
East of England					
Bedfordshire	19	1	2	10	—
Cambridgeshire	1	—	—	541	—
Essex	8	13	—	36	—
Hertfordshire	13	5	—	3	—
Norfolk	24	—	1	4	1
Suffolk	8	3	1	14	—
Sub-total	73	22	4	608	1
London					
City of London	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	148	25	11	210	3
Sub-total	148	25	11	210	3
South East					
Hampshire	15	11	—	83	34
Kent	31	4	5	113	—
Surrey	13	—	1	—	1
Sussex	12	3	—	58	—
Thames Valley	40	6	4	17	1
Sub-total	111	24	10	271	36
South West					
Avon and Somerset	18	4	—	22	—
Devon and Cornwall	22	9	—	35	1
Dorset	6	1	—	20	—
Gloucestershire	—	6	—	6	—
Wiltshire	15	1	2	2	—
Sub-total	61	21	2	85	1
Wales					
Dyfed-Powys	13	3	2	22	—
Gwent	5	—	2	13	—
North Wales	12	2	1	47	—
South Wales	36	4	18	30	—
Sub-total	66	9	23	112	—

Table 2: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal, littering and noise offences, by Government office region and police force area, England and Wales, 2009[1,2]

	2009				
	Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(8)	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.33(6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 s.87, 93 and 94*	*Noise Act 1996*
England and Wales	872	240	78	4,449	68

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Corresponding offence descriptions for statutes are as follows:
Environmental Protection Act 1990:
s.33(8) Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence;
s.33(9) Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence;
s.33(6) Contravening conditions of a waste management licence;
s.87 Deposit litter;
s.93 and 94 Failure to comply with Street Litter Control Notice.
Noise Act 1996:
Responsible for noise exceeding prescribed level from premises after service of notice.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Asylum

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the deadline is for completion of the asylum legacy caseload by the UK Border Agency. [52123]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency provides regular updates on performance of the "legacy" cases, including a breakdown into grants, removals and "other" cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

On 2 March, the Agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded over 403,000 cases as at 31 January 2011.

The UK Border Agency has nearly completed its review of all outstanding "legacy" cases that have not yet been concluded on 31 March. It remains on track to conclude the legacy backlog by summer 2011.

Burglary

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of recent trends in the level of burglary offences in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [51793]

James Brokenshire: Recent annual trends show that the total offences of burglaries recorded by Gloucestershire police decreased by 5%, from 5,823 offences in 2008-09 to 5,525 offences in 2009-10.

For the component burglary offences, the force recorded a 7% increase in burglary in a dwelling (2,292 in 2008-09 and 2,453 in 2009-10).

Gloucestershire police also recorded 3,072 offences of burglary in a building other than a dwelling in 2009-10, a 13% decrease from the previous year total of 3,531 offences.

Figures for England and Wales show that total burglaries recorded by the police fell by 7%, 581,577 in 2008-09 to 540,655 in 2009-10. Burglary in a dwelling fell by 6% from 284,440 to 268,595 in the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. Offences of burglary in a building other than a dwelling decreased by 8% from 297,137 in 2008-09 to 272,060 offences in 2009-10.

Children: Employment

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what process was used to assess child labour in the UK prior to making the Government's report to the International Labour Organisation under ILO Convention 182. [51634]

Damian Green: A number of reviews and threat assessments are currently available and used to inform our understanding of the threat and extent of child labour and exploitation issues, including child trafficking, within the UK. The most recent strategic threat assessment produced by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) published in 2010 provides an update on the extent of child abuse, trafficking and exploitation within the UK.

At the time of the previous Government's report on the International Labour Organisation Convention 182 in 2009, CEOP had produced their first strategic threat assessment of the extent of child trafficking within the UK. This was available and used to inform the Government's report together with other sources of available information including the National Referral Mechanism.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of non-governmental organisations on the Government's obligations under International Labour Organisation Convention 182. [51640]

Damian Green: The UK Government are strongly committed to tackling the worst forms of child labour contained in the International Labour Organisation Convention 182; including child trafficking, child sexual exploitation and prostitution.

While no recent discussions have been held with non-governmental organisations on the International Labour Organisation Convention 182 itself, the Government are currently developing a new human trafficking strategy which will bring an increased focus on the countries from which children are trafficked and therefore help to prevent children becoming victims of child trafficking and exploitation in the UK. Engagement with non-governmental organisations is a key part of this process.

The Department is also working closely with NGOs to identify the range of models and approaches for responding to prostitution within England and Wales.

The aims of this group include producing local guidance which will cover the local response to children sexually exploited through prostitution.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of industry on ensuring that child labour is not used during the preparation and manufacture of goods. [51641]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has had no recent discussions with representatives of industry about the use of child labour in the preparation and manufacture of goods. However, the UK Government are committed to the elimination of child labour exploitation and through a number of projects and initiatives in the UK and overseas such as the Ethical Trading Initiative or the Responsible and Accountable Garments Sector challenge fund and are working towards long-lasting changes that tackle the underlying poverty that is at the root of this problem.

COE Commissioner for Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe and *(b)* the Commissioner's office on immigration and migration matters since her appointment. [51961]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not had any discussions with the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, or with the Commissioner's office since her appointment.

Crime: Prevention

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to ensure continuity of funding for organisations which were funded by the Community Fund for conflict resolution and which will now be expected to bid for resources under the Communities against Gangs, Guns and Knives Fund; which such organisations would have expected year three funding for existing projects under the Community Fund; for which such organisations funding under the Communities against Gangs, Guns and Knives Fund is not yet available; what interim arrangements have been put in place; and if she will make a statement. [50947]

James Brokenshire: The application process for the Communities Against Gangs, Guns and Knives Fund opened on 25 March 2011. The Fund will provide £4 million to voluntary and community sector organisations working across England and Wales to reduce gang, gun and knife related violence by young people over the next two years. The new fund provides £0.5 million more per year than the Community Fund and is open to organisations based in any part of England and Wales, rather than just the 10 areas covered by the Tackling Knives Action Programme in 2008.

The criteria for the fund are focused on organisations working with young people at risk of involvement in gang, gun and knife crime or to support those who are already involved to leave that lifestyle. Organisations supported by the Community Fund will be eligible to bid for the new fund for two years' funding. Those with a proven track record will be well placed to meet the criteria. Each successful organisation will receive grants of £10,000 each per year. Existing Community Fund recipients and other interested voluntary and community based organisations have been asked to lodge their applications by the closing date of 15 April 2011.

Criminal Records

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of people whose details are recorded on the Criminal Records Bureau database have not been charged, convicted of or otherwise received a penalty or sanction in relation to a criminal offence; and how many such people are aged 16 years or under. [52312]

Lynne Featherstone: The Criminal Records Bureau CRB database contains details of people who have made applications for criminal record certificates. It does not contain details of people who have been charged or convicted of a criminal offence as these details are held by the police on the Police National Computer (PNC).

In processing applications for criminal records certificates, the CRB has access to records held by the police and other data sources.

The overwhelming majority of CRB checks are clear. The following table illustrates the number and proportion of people in each of the last five years who have received CRB certificates that do not disclose details of convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings. A further table shows the position for those who are aged 16 years or under during the same period:

All applications

	Total dispatch volumes	*PNC match*	*No PNC match*	*Percentage of total applications with no PNC match*
2006-07	3,277,957	194,926	3,083,031	94.05
2007-08	3,323,334	208,748	3,114,586	93.72
2008-09	3,853,686	272,083	3,581,603	92.94
2009-10	4,299,906	311,263	3,988,643	92.76
2010-11	4,311,820	337,247	3,974,573	92.18

Under 17

	Total dispatch volumes	*PNC match*	*No PNC match*	*Percentage of total volumes for under 17 applications with no match*
2006-07	60,761	2,610	58,151	95.70
2007-08	63,364	3,007	60,357	95.25
2008-09	68,125	3,530	64,595	94.82
2009-10	71,020	3,624	67,396	94.90
2010-11	75,589	3,326	72,263	95.60

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of her Department since her appointment. [51993]

Damian Green: No ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of the Home Department since the appointment of the current Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the change in the *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value of services provided by her Department which have been contracted out to (i) the third sector and (ii) the private sector between January 2005 and December 2010. [48164]

Damian Green: The data needed to provide a comparison could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* each other Minister in her Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) she and (ii) each other Minister in her Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50196]

Damian Green: Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. Two cars have been allocated for ministerial use, one of which is provided by the Metropolitan police for the Secretary of State for the Home Department. Other Ministers use ministerial cars according to business need.

As at 30 March 2011, Home Office Ministers last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity on the following occasions:

Nick Herbert—16 February 2011
Damian Green—29 March 2011
James Brokenshire—29 March 2011
Lynne Featherstone—29 March 2011
Baroness Neville-Jones—30 March 2011

Information relating to how many times Home Office Ministers have travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants in her Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if she will make a statement. [49188]

Damian Green: Since April 2010 the Home Office has offered no staff "voluntary redundancy" as defined by the new Civil Service Compensation scheme. The Department ran a voluntary early release scheme in autumn 2010 from which 1,150 people have left.

Further to this, the Home Office launched a voluntary exit scheme in January 2011. This is still partway through its administration, with exits taking place between 31 March 2011 and 31 March 2012. So far, over 360 people have left the Department.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of the cost of removing records from the National DNA Database following implementation of proposals for such removal. [50103]

James Brokenshire: I refer my hon. Friend to the impact assessment produced for the Protection of Freedoms Bill, which can be found on Home Office website

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/legislation/freedom-bill/dna-fingerprints-ia?view=Binary

and has been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of people who have not been charged with a crime whose DNA records on the National DNA Database were added by Surrey police. [51870]

James Brokenshire: This information is not held centrally.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals in each police force area have records on the National DNA Database. [52316]

James Brokenshire: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Brigg and Goole (Andrew Percy) on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 539-40W.

Domestic Violence

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what amendments the UK has *(a)* proposed and *(b)* supported in the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on the draft Convention on Prevention and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence; and if she will make a statement. [51235]

Lynne Featherstone: The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers has not itself discussed the substantive provisions of the draft convention on prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence. However, during negotiations at official level we have made it clear that we are keen to see the adoption of a strong convention that will protect and promote human rights worldwide. We are not convinced that the convention as currently drafted achieves those aims, and discussions continue in other meetings with our Council of Europe partners on how our concerns may be best addressed.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of police officers who are assigned to work on *(a)* sexual violence and *(b)* domestic violence cases. [51288]

Lynne Featherstone: This information is not available centrally. Individual police forces assign officers to particular case types according to operational need.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding she plans to allocate to new positions supporting women who are victims of domestic or sexual violence in the next four years. [51289]

Lynne Featherstone: In the Government's strategic vision to end violence against women and girls, published in November 2010, we committed £28 million of Home Office funding for specialist services on a stable basis over the next four years. This money will be used to improve the response to rape and domestic violence, provide more training and early intervention programmes, introduce new powers and provide better support for victims. As part of this commitment, we have almost doubled the number of Home Office funded Independent Sexual Violence Advisors from 44 to 87. For domestic violence the funding will be used to contribute to existing and new Independent Domestic Violence Adviser and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences Co-ordinator posts. There will also be continued funding for the National Domestic Violence Helpline, Men's Advice Line and Broken Rainbow helpline. Separate funding has also been allocated to continue and enhance support provided by the Sojourner Project during 2011-12.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice recently announced the provision over the next three years of up to £10.5 million in grant funding for existing rape support centres. Also, in the first phase of a wider programme of work to develop new rape support centres where there are gaps in provision, up to £600,000 in funding will be provided over the next 12 months to develop new centres in Hereford, Trafford, Devon and Dorset.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of provision of multi-agency risk assessment conference co-ordinators or equivalent positions. [51290]

Lynne Featherstone: A recent Home Office review of multi-agency risk assessment conference co-ordinators (MARACs) commissioned as part of the Government's broader strategy on ending violence against women and girls has looked at a range of issues around how MARACs currently operate. The review is due to be published in the summer.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many independent *(a)* sexual violence advisers, *(b)* domestic violence advisers and *(c)* multi-agency risk assessment conference co-ordinators or equivalent positions were in post on the most recent date for which figures are available; and in which regions they are located. [51291]

Lynne Featherstone: Since independent sexual violence advisors (ISVAs), independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) and multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) co-ordinators are employed and funded by a range of local organisations it is not possible to provide an overall total for any of these categories. In 2011-12 the Home Office will be contributing funding towards 87 ISVA posts, over 50 MARAC co-ordinator posts and over 135 IDVA posts. The numbers for the MARAC co-ordinator posts and IDVA posts will be confirmed once the notification process has been completed.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications her Department has received for funding for multi-agency risk assessment conference coordinators since her appointment; how many groups made applications; and from which regions these applications came. [51293]

Lynne Featherstone: We received over 120 applications for multi-agency risk assessment conference coordinator (MARAC) funding from over 100 organisations (statutory and voluntary).

Applications were received from London and the following regions: East, South West, South East, Wales, North West, North East, West Midlands, East Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications her Department has received for funding for independent domestic violence advisers since her appointment; how many groups made applications; and from which regions these applications came. [51294]

Lynne Featherstone: We received over 230 applications for independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA) funding from over 200 organisations (statutory and voluntary).

Applications were received from London and the following regions: East, South West, South East, Wales, North West, North East, West Midlands, East Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber.

Elections: Finance

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers she plans to give the Electoral Commission in relation to the funding of election campaigns by *(a)* political party and *(b)* independent candidates for posts of police and crime commissioner in England and Wales. [51169]

Nick Herbert: The Government are working closely with the Electoral Commission, representatives of local government and others to draw up the regulations that will set out this role. Subject to the will of Parliament, they will be issued following Royal Assent to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent change she has made to the evidential requirements for grant of a visa for entry to the UK from Pakistan. [51696]

Damian Green: In October 2010, in response to the Independent Chief Inspector's report on the UK Border Agency's visa operation in Abu Dhabi and Islamabad, the Agency published new guidance on its website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas

regarding the documentation that it recommends should be submitted in support of applications in each of the main visa categories. The guidance applies globally and is not specific to applications lodged in Pakistan. There has, however, been no change in the evidential requirements for visa applications submitted in Pakistan or elsewhere. As always, it is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules for entry in a particular category, and to provide appropriate supporting documentation.

Fixed Penalties

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which offences fixed penalty notices may be imposed by the police; and what guidance has been issued by her Department on circumstances in which such notices may be imposed. [52308]

James Brokenshire: Most fixed penalties are offered for motoring offences. The Secretary of State can provide for any offence in respect of a vehicle to be a fixed penalty offence. Schedule 3 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 lists the offences for which a fixed penalty can currently be offered. Guidance on the operation of the fixed penalty system was last issued in 2006 and is available on the National Archives website at:

http://tna.europarchive.org/20100419081706/http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/HO_00395_GFinalVersion006f.html?view=Standard&pubID=332084

Penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) are a type of fixed penalty designed to tackle low level, antisocial and nuisance offending. The list of offences covered by the scheme and police operational guidance is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/penalty-notices

Forensic Science Service

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the archives of the Forensic Science Service following the closure of that body. [51809]

James Brokenshire: We recognize the importance of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) archives, both in academic terms and in the investigation of re-opened cases (or 'cold cases' as they are sometimes called). The Home Office is working closely with FSS, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and colleagues across the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to agree a suitable process for the handling and retention of FSS records so that historical data remain available to the CJS.

As part of this process we will also seek to ensure the necessary expertise exists to use this resource to best effect for the CJS.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure that expertise in *(a)* hair comparison, *(b)* fibre analysis and *(c)* other little-used examinations is maintained following the winding down of the Forensic Science Service. [51810]

James Brokenshire: We are committed to ensuring the police and the Criminal Justice System (CJS) as a whole have the forensics capability they need to do their jobs effectively. We are currently reviewing the Forensic Science Service (FSS) functions as part of the process of managed closure, including identifying whether there are any needs which cannot be met by the forensics market. A great deal of expertise already exists within private sector providers, and it is our intention that valuable capability in the FSS, including staff, might transition to other providers as part of the managed closure.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to support research and development in forensic science. [51811]

James Brokenshire: We are carefully examining ways in which innovation and research in forensic science can flourish to build on existing expertise and continue the innovation for which the UK has become globally renowned.

Alongside this work, we recently commissioned the Home Office chief scientific adviser, Professor Bernard Silverman to carry out a review of how research and development in forensic science is developed in the UK. The review has been consulting widely with forensic service providers, academia, research funders and international forensic science networks. The review is also working closely with the National Policing Improvement Agency and police service customers to understand their view of forensic science requirements for policing.

Homicide

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* Brighton and Hove where there was no finding of guilt because the perpetrator committed suicide in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [52226]

James Brokenshire: Available data are collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales, including British Transport Police (BTP) where the offence was committed within England or Wales, and have been extracted from the Homicide Index.

A breakdown for the years 2005-06 to 2009-10 showing the number recorded by forces in England, Wales and by BTP is shown in the following table. Save in respect of the 7 July 2005 London bombings, it is not possible to show where offences recorded by the BTP were committed. Data specifically about Brighton and Hove could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Offences[1] currently recorded by the police as homicide where suspect committed suicide: England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2009-10[2]

			Number of offences
	England	*Wales*	*BTP[3]*
2005-06[4]	22	2	41
2006-07	23	—	—
2007-08	22	2	—
2008-09	20	4	—
2009-10	20	2	—

[1] As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[3] Offences recorded by British Transport Police. It is not possible to show where in England or Wales these offences were committed.
[4] Includes 52 victims of the 7 July 2005 London bombings; 13 recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service (included within 'England' category), 39 by BTP.

The total number of offences recorded as homicide between 1999-2000 and 2009-10 for which court proceedings were either not initiated or were not concluded because the person suspected of being responsible for the death had committed suicide is shown in Table 1.02 of the most recent homicide chapter, which can be found online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0111/hosb0111-supp?view=Binary

Data are as at 28 September 2010 and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

The collection of homicide data for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* Brighton and Hove where more than one family member was killed in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [52227]

James Brokenshire: The homicide index database for England and Wales provides data on the victim's relationship to the principal suspect. In incidents involving more than one victim, the database does not hold information on the relationship between victims.

Information on the number of homicides where more than one family member was killed would require an inspection of the details of individual records and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The collection of homicide data for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the length of time between the arrest of a person suspected of a human trafficking offence and the court hearing; and if she will make a statement. [50432]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to reducing the length of time between arrest and court hearing as much as possible. The Criminal Procedure Rules (CPR) govern the practice and procedure of the criminal courts and give the courts explicit powers to manage actively the preparation of criminal cases to prevent unfair and unavoidable delays, and promote certainty about what is happening for the benefit of everyone involved.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were for offences of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [13433]

Damian Green: Statistics held by the UK Human Trafficking Centre show that there have been 33 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation in 2009 and 17 convictions in 2010.

There are 65 cases still pending that arise from arrests in 2009 and 2010.

Identity and Passport Service: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is conducting the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of employees of Liverpool Passport Office on 21 March 2011; and whether the results of the investigation will be published. [51807]

Damian Green: The investigation is being conducted internally and is nearing completion. The report of the investigation will be shared with the individuals concerned, the PCS union and interested Members of Parliament.

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on steps to combat illegal migration. [50401]

Damian Green: The matter is discussed on an ongoing basis as part of regular meetings between UK Border Agency officials and officials from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on steps to combat illegal migration. [50403]

Damian Green: The matter is discussed on an ongoing basis as part of regular meetings between UK Border Agency officials and the Welsh Assembly Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, and Welsh Assembly Government officials.

Immigrants: Detainees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to the public purse of the arrest, detention and removal of an individual detained under immigration rules was in the latest period for which figures are available. [51834]

Damian Green: It is not currently possible to calculate an average cost for an arrest without incurring disproportionate cost, as the necessary information is not available in the required format.

We estimate that detention costs, on average, £110 per night—length of detention will vary according to the individual.

The National Audit Office (NAO) report "Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency", published on 23 January 2009 and available to view at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx

provides a range of upper and lower-end cost estimates for people who are detained or removed in different circumstances (for example, for a single undetained adult who is removed after exhausting his/her appeal rights, the process will cost between £7,900 and £17,000 excluding accommodation and support costs, and between £12,000 and £25,600 including accommodation and support costs). A copy of this report is available in the House Library.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for immigration offences when reporting to an immigration centre in the latest period for which figures are available. [51859]

Damian Green: The number of people arrested when reporting in the last calendar year (2010) was 1,532.

These figures are provisional, based on management information, not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and may be subject to change.

Immigrants: Married People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the removal from the UK of individuals whose spouses are British citizens; and if she will make a statement. [51857]

Damian Green: Before making a decision to remove an individual whose spouse is a British citizen, the UK Border Agency will consider the case in line with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (right to a private and/or family life) and paragraph 395c of the immigration rules (age, length of residence, strength of connections, domestic circumstances, compassionate circumstances, any representations).

Each case will be considered on its individual merits.

Chapter 53 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance sets out the extenuating circumstances which are considered before an individual is removed.

This is available to view at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/detentionandremovals/

Immigration: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on levels of immigration to the UK of the provisions of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; and what steps she has taken in response to the inclusion in the 2011 workplan of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights of the first priority identified in respect of the situation of irregular migrants in the EU. [52477]

Damian Green: The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights does not create new rights and does not give the European Court of Justice or national courts any new powers to strike down national laws and practices for breaching fundamental rights. Consequently the Government do not consider it likely that the Charter will affect levels of immigration to the UK.

The 2011 work plan of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights includes the completion of a first priority activity on the situation of irregular migrants which began in 2009. The purpose of the activity is to carry out research on welfare and fundamental rights issues affecting irregular migrants, to publish reports and to organise meetings with selected key stakeholders and decision makers at the national and European level.

The Government support completion of this activity so that the research findings will be published. Research reports by the Fundamental Rights Agency are published in order to assist member states and others in understanding the fundamental rights situation across the EU. Any recommendations made in these reports are not binding on member states.

Knives: Crime

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile knife scanners have been introduced into front line policing units since May 2010. [51649]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold the requested information. It is for chief constables and police authorities to decide on the equipment needed to deliver operational policing within their force area.

Licensing Laws

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she has assessed the merits of introducing measures to ensure that community amateur sports clubs are not subject to the same licensing laws as commercial venues; [51136]

(2) whether she has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the potential effects of licensing laws on sports clubs. [51217]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) regularly holds discussions with her Cabinet colleagues, however, she has not had specific discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt) on the potential effects of alcohol licensing laws on sports clubs. The licensing arrangements for all venues that sell or supply alcohol have been considered as part of the proposals to overhaul the Licensing Act 2003 and are currently being taken forward in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

Members: Correspondence

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) of 16 February 2011. [46423]

Nick Herbert: The Olympic and Paralympic Security Office for Security and Counter Terrorism wrote to the right hon. Member on 10 March 2011.

Police: Graduates

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recruits to police forces in England and Wales in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 had university degrees. [48025]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office no longer collects data on the number of recruits who are graduates. However, according to Tom Winsor's report: Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions, in 2010, 27% of police officer recruits were graduates.

Table 1: Number of candidates and pass rates by academic attainment, England and Wales; Exercise Suite November 2007 to October 2008

	Number of attendees	*Percentage of all attendees*	*National success rate (percentage)*	*Number of national candidates successful*
Postgraduate	438	2.4	81.5	357
Graduate/ NVQ Level 5	4,824	26.2	85.2	4,110
Total	5,262	28.5	85	4,467

Table 2: Number of candidates and pass rates by academic attainment, England and Wales; Exercise Suite November 2008 to October 2009

	Number of attendees	*Percentage of all attendees*	*National success rate (percentage)*	*Number of national candidates successful*
Postgraduate	446	2.3	70.6	315
Graduate/ NVQ Level 5	4,720	24.3	74.2	3,504
Total	5,166	26.6	73.9	3,819

Table 3: Number of candidates and pass rates by academic attainment, England and Wales; Exercise Suite November 2009 to December 2010

	Number of attendees	*Percentage of all attendees*	*National success rate (percentage)*	*Number of national candidates successful*
Postgraduate	112	2.6	90.2	101
Graduate/ NVQ Level 5	1,139	26.2	86.7	987
Total	1,251	28.8	87	1,088

Police: Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in police numbers serving in each police force area in England and Wales has been since March 2010. [51891]

Nick Herbert: The latest available data are provided in the following table which shows the number of police officers in each police force area as at March 2010. Figures for March 2011 will be available on 21 July 2011.

This information is also published in the "Police Service Strength in England and Wales, 30 September 2010" bulletin which can be seen from the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/policeresearch/hosb0311/?view=Standard&pubID=864093

Police officer strength by police force area (full-time equivalents)[1]

	Police officers			
English Government Office Regions and Wales	*FTE strength as at:*		*Change in six months March 10 – September 2010*	
	March 2010	*September 2010*	*Number*	*Percentage*
North East	7,419	7,301	-117	-1.6
Cleveland	1,724	1,694	-30	-1.7
Durham	1,507	1,463	-44	-2.9
Northumbria	4,187	4,144	-43	-1.0
North West	19,694	19,306	-388	-2.0
Cheshire	2,142	2,148	5	0.2
Cumbria	1,238	1,220	-18	-1.5
Greater Manchester	8,148	7,976	-172	-2.1
Lancashire	3,649	3,549	-100	-2.8
Merseyside	4,516	4,414	-103	-2.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	12,254	12,102	-152	-1.2
Humberside	2,058	2,001	-56	-2.7
North Yorkshire	1,486	1,452	-34	-2.3
South Yorkshire	2,953	2,977	24	0.8
West Yorkshire	5,759	5,673	-86	-1.5
East Midlands	9,349	9,246	-103	-1.1
Derbyshire	2,074	2,076	2	0.1
Leicestershire	2,317	2,258	-59	-2.5
Lincolnshire	1,206	1,197	-10	-0.8
Northamptonshire	1,343	1,337	-6	-0.4
Nottinghamshire	2,409	2,379	-30	-1.3
West Midlands	14,151	13,853	-298	-2.1
Staffordshire	2,161	2,116	-45	-2.1
Warwickshire	973	949	-24	-2.5
West Mercia	2,391	2,303	-88	-3.7
West Midlands	8,626	8,485	-141	-1.6
Eastern	11,364	11,318	-47	-0.4
Bedfordshire	1,246	1,242	-4	-0.3
Cambridgeshire	1,471	1,441	-30	-2.0
Essex	3,606	3,639	33	0.9
Hertfordshire	2,130	2,092	-37	-1.7
Norfolk	1,665	1,631	-34	-2.1
Suffolk	1,246	1,272	26	2.1
London	34,219	33,778	-441	-1.3
London, City of	852	878	25	3.0
Metropolitan Police	33,367	32,900	-466	-1.4
South East	17,119	16,897	-222	-1.3

Police officer strength by police force area (full-time equivalents)[1]

English Government Office Regions and Wales	Police officers			
	FTE strength as at:		Change in six months March 10 – September 2010	
	March 2010	September 2010	Number	Percentage
Hampshire	3,748	3,702	-46	-1.2
Kent	3,834	3,741	-93	-2.4
Surrey	1,890	1,864	-25	-1.3
Sussex	3,213	3,177	-36	-1.1
Thames Valley	4,434	4,412	-22	-0.5
South West	10,839	10,701	-138	-1.3
Avon and Somerset	3,302	3,264	-38	-1.1
Devon and Cornwall	3,561	3,526	-36	-1.0
Dorset	1,486	1,478	-8	-0.6
Gloucestershire	1,309	1,295	-14	-1.1
Wiltshire	1,181	1,138	-42	-3.6
Wales	7,369	7,349	-20	-0.3
Dyfed-Powys	1,195	1,175	-20	-1.6
Gwent	1,437	1,508	71	5.0
North Wales	1,590	1,558	-32	-2.0
South Wales	3,148	3,108	-40	-1.3
Total of all 43 forces	143,776	141,850	-1,926	-1.3
Central Service Secondments	501	513	12	2.4
British Transport Police[2]	2,677	2,652	-25	-0.9
Total Police Officer Strength	146,954	145,015	-1,939	-1.3
Total Police Officer Strength (excluding BTP)	144,277	142,363	-1,914	-1.3

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] The figure for the British Transport Police for March has been revised since it was last published. The revised figure is for officers in England and Wales only, and does not include figures for Scotland.

Police: Overtime

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average amount paid in overtime to police constables in each police force in England and Wales was in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09, *(d)* 2009-10 and *(e)* 2010-11. [48026]

Nick Herbert: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Cannock Chase (Mr Burley) on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 96-98W which provides information for the years 2000-01 to 2009-10. Data for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of overtime for *(a)* warranted officers and *(b)* civilian staff in each police force in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [48533]

Nick Herbert *[Holding answer 23 March 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel) on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 79-84W.

Police: Pay

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average change in the net income for police officers in Wales and England in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [47364]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 17 March 2011]:* There are several factors that are likely to affect the net income of police officers over the next two years. The Government's policy is to freeze the pay of public sector workers earning over £21,000 for two years. We would expect this to apply to police officers, but will take account of any recommendations from the Police Negotiating Board. We have also recently received the first part of Tom Winsor's review of remuneration and conditions of service for police officers and staff, published on 8 March 2011. This report contains a number of recommendations on police officer and staff pay. Before any of them could be implemented they would be subject to consideration by the police negotiating machinery. The Secretary of State for the Home Department said in her written statement of 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, that she will direct the Police Negotiating Board and Police Advisory Board for England and Wales to consider the proposals that are within their respective remits for police officers in England and Wales. It would not be appropriate to pre-empt that consideration.

In response to Lord Hutton's interim report, the Government has also announced its intention to increase the employee contributions of public sector workers by, on average, around three percentage points. The proposed increase would be phased in over three years from April 2012. Any increase in the pension contributions for police officers would be subject to consultation with the Police Negotiating Board.

Police: Recruitment

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much it cost to assess a police constable candidate at each stage of assessment in the latest period for which figures are available. [52026]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Redundancy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the number of police officers who will be made compulsorily redundant in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [49201]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 28 March 2011]:* There is no provision in legislation for making police officers redundant.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* uniformed officers, *(b)* community support officers and *(c)* civilian staff have taken voluntary redundancy from Kent police in each month since May 2005. [51652]

Nick Herbert: There is no provision in regulations for police officers to take voluntary redundancy. For police community support officers and civilian staff, voluntary redundancy is a matter for individual forces. The Home Office does not collect figures specifically for this category of exit.

Police: Southwark

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are assigned to duties in the London borough of Southwark; and how many she expects there to be in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [47305]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 21 March 2011]:* There were 964 police officers assigned to duties in the London borough of Southwark, as at 31 March 2010. This figure is based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number and includes officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

The number of police officers that are assigned duties in the London borough of Southwark for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are not yet available. It is for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to determine the number of police officers that are deployed in Southwark.

Reoffenders

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persistent and prolific offenders have been identified in each police force area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [52467]

James Brokenshire: The number of offenders designated as prolific and other priority offenders through partnership arrangements in each police force area is set out in the following table. The data cover the last three years and are the most recent data available.

Number of PPOs as registered on JTRACK caseload by police force area

Police force area	*1 April 2007 - 31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009*	*1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010*
Avon and Somerset	303	347	382
Bedfordshire	168	140	108
Cambridgeshire	209	206	182
Cheshire	248	240	130
City of London	20	18	20
Cleveland	204	211	231
Cumbria	102	111	110
Derbyshire	447	426	374
Devon and Cornwall	474	409	339
Dorset	107	102	89
Durham	116	123	141
Dyfed Powys	100	109	107
Essex	292	326	374
Gloucestershire	137	147	156
Greater Manchester	1,491	1,500	1,346
Gwent	110	110	119
Hampshire	425	407	405
Hertfordshire	239	226	212
Humberside	295	336	344
Kent	561	371	394
Lancashire	498	567	609
Leicestershire	562	447	427
Lincolnshire	175	125	126
Merseyside	583	503	490
Metropolitan Police	1,525	1,408	1,506
Norfolk	157	138	133
North Wales	148	156	108
North Yorkshire	143	135	137
Northamptonshire	337	303	292
Northumbria	342	308	352
Nottinghamshire	874	788	618
South Wales	298	396	453
South Yorkshire	335	358	353
Staffordshire	364	314	309
Suffolk	190	174	256
Surrey	247	215	157
Sussex	528	499	490
Thames Valley	467	423	526
Warwickshire	132	142	118
West Mercia	159	161	149
West Midlands	1,043	986	958
West Yorkshire	652	631	790
Wiltshire	97	84	70

Source:
JTRACK

Repatriation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries the Government does not forcibly repatriate individuals as a result of failed immigration or asylum applications. [51666]

Damian Green: All returns are considered on an individual basis, and we would not seek to remove someone who needs international protection. There is no country to which as a matter of policy we would not seek to enforce the return of those who do not need such protection.

Repatriation: Zimbabwe

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been forcibly repatriated to Zimbabwe as a result of unsuccessful immigration applications since the relaxation of removal rules in respect of Zimbabwe. [51664]

Damian Green: On 14 October 2010 I announced that the UK Border Agency would be resuming enforced returns of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe after the Immigration and Asylum Chamber (IAC) had issued its judgment in the case of EM and others. This judgement was promulgated on 11 March 2011.

As of 6 April 2011 there have been no enforced removals to Zimbabwe since the judgment was promulgated.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were voluntarily repatriated to Zimbabwe as a result of unsuccessful immigration applications in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [51665]

Damian Green: There were 320 people that voluntarily returned to Zimbabwe in 2008, 316 people in 2009 and 370 people in 2010.

These figures are provisional, based on management information, not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and may be subject to change.

Sexual Offences: Advisory Services

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications her Department has received for funding for independent sexual violence advisers since her appointment; how many groups made applications; and from which regions these applications came. [51292]

Lynne Featherstone: In the funding round 2011-12 to 2014-15, the Home Office received 146 applications for independent sexual violence adviser (ISVA) funding from 144 organisations. These applications came from all regions in England and from Wales. Grants were awarded to support 87 posts across all of the English regions and Wales. This represents a commitment of £1.72 million per annum over the spending review period.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated to funding each sexual assault referral centre in 2011-12; from which of her Department's budgets each such centre will be funded; and what the location is of each such centre. [51281]

Lynne Featherstone: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has committed to providing £1.72 million of funding per annum from the Department's crime prevention budget over the next four years to part-fund Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) posts. This includes 29 ISVAs working in Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs).

The following table provides details of the locations of the SARCs awarded Home Office ISVA funding in the period 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Police force area	*SARC name*	*ISVA posts funded in 2011-12 to 2014-15*
Cambridgeshire	Oasis@Riverside, Peterborough	1
Cleveland	Helen Britton House, Middlesbrough	1
Devon and Cornwall	Twelves Company, Plymouth	1
	Devon and Torbay SARC	1
Durham	The Meadows, Meadowfield	1
Gloucestershire	Hope House, Gloucester	1
Greater Manchester	St Mary's, Manchester	1
Hertfordshire	Sunflower Centre, Watford	2
Lancashire	SAFE Centre, Preston	1
Merseyside	SAFE Place, Liverpool	1
Metropolitan Police	The Havens: Paddington, Camberwell and Whitechapel	2
Norfolk	Harbour Centre, Norwich	2
Northamptonshire	Serenity SARC, Northampton	1
Northumbria	Reach Centres: Newcastle and Sunderland	1
South Yorkshire	ISIS SARC, Rotherham	2
Suffolk	The Ferns, Ipswich	2
Wiltshire	The New Swindon Sanctuary, Swindon	1
South Wales	Safe Island, Cardiff	1
	New Pathways, Merthyr Tydfil	1
	New Pathways, Bridgend	1
Dyfed Powys	New Pathways, Carmarthen	1
Gwent	New Pathways, Risca	1
Bedfordshire	Bedfordshire and Luton SARC	2

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on *(a)* funding provided by primary care trusts (PCTs) for sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) and *(b)* future plans for funding SARCs following the abolition of PCTs. [51285]

Lynne Featherstone: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues from across Government on a wide range of issues relating to tackling violence against women and girls including services for victims of rape and sexual violence. Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Health on future local sexual assault referral centre (SARC) funding following the abolition of primary care trusts. From 2011 to 2015 the Home Office is part-funding 87 independent sexual violence adviser posts, of which 29 will be based in SARCs.

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints the UK Border Agency has received from residents of St Albans constituency in each of the last six months. [52124]

Damian Green: The total number of complaints received by the UK Border Agency and recorded on the Complaints Management System from residents of St Albans postcode area in the last six months is seven. A breakdown by month is listed as follows:

Two received in March 2011

One received in February 2011
One received in January 2011
Two received in December 2010
One received in October 2010

UK Border Agency: Pay

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border Agency received a salary of over £100,000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [51833]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is committed to being transparent and has published detail of the salaries of senior staff on the sites listed as follows. The data now in the public domain represent what we can provide while honouring the duty that we have to our staff under the Data Protection Act.

Please note that two of the 16 listed there, Lin Homer and Dee Bourke, have both left this organisation; new organisation charts and information on senior staff salaries will be published shortly.

The information is available from the following link;

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/our-organisation/our-structure/structure-salary/

The report headed "UK Border Agency: structure and salary reports" at the base of the page then select "Senior staff salaries—UK Border Agency" and that will provide the list of senior staff salaries.

Violence

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded instances of *(a)* rape and *(b)* domestic violence there were in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each year since 1997; and what the clear-up rate for each was in each such year. [52383]

Lynne Featherstone: These data are shown in the following tables.

Due to changes in recording practice, data on police recorded offences are not comparable across the period requested. The counting rules for recorded crime were revised in April 1998 and the coverage was expanded. Trends were also affected by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, which required the police to record a crime unless there was "no credible evidence to the contrary". The Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 also altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences, including rape.

Data on police recorded offences of rape for each year since 1997 by police force area are provided in Table A. Data on domestic violence incidents reported to the police have been collected by the Home Office since 2003-04 and the available data are provided in Table B. Some data have been estimated due to lack of provision of data from police forces. All estimated figures are indicated in the table. Data for earlier years are not available centrally.

Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

In addition to the recorded crime revisions mentioned above, detection data trends have also been affected by additional changes. Revised guidance on detections was issued in April 1999 which formalised detection procedures, placing a greater emphasis on the evidential basis on which detections can be claimed.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

The Home Office carried out research published in July 2007 which found that the reduction in detection rates was likely to be largely due to changes in recording practices resulting from the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard, counting rules and detections guidance (Feist et al, 2007).

Detection rates for rape offences are provided in Table C. Detection rates for domestic violence offences are not held centrally.

Table A: Recorded rape offences[1, 2] by police force area, 1997 to 2009-10

Area	*1997*[3]	*1998-99*[4]	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[5, 6]	*2003-04*
Avon and Somerset	219	175	181	199	323	429	482
Bedfordshire	81	66	96	85	92	121	147
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	26
Cambridgeshire	73	84	105	106	156	200	232
Cheshire	101	108	62	80	74	110	184
Cleveland	37	56	51	37	54	110	145
Cumbria	33	43	34	37	47	66	74
Derbyshire	75	108	109	107	120	198	233
Devon and Cornwall	164	178	165	184	181	275	329
Dorset	68	55	66	80	122	132	144
Durham	71	60	66	46	78	62	72
Dyfed-Powys	58	43	55	47	49	46	101
Essex	130	187	196	166	202	294	335
Gloucestershire	36	54	70	90	53	122	107
Greater Manchester	432	537	548	544	574	719	846
Gwent	98	91	106	87	106	148	82
Hampshire	199	180	249	274	303	358	462
Hertfordshire	68	51	68	86	87	169	161

Table A: Recorded rape offences[1, 2] by police force area, 1997 to 2009-10

Area	*1997*[3]	*1998-99*[4]	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[5, 6]	*2003-04*
Humberside	156	127	170	142	166	258	350
Kent	152	169	145	187	186	216	286
Lancashire	158	154	148	200	194	245	270
Leicestershire	97	152	150	147	159	257	250
Lincolnshire	54	65	63	75	111	137	163
London, City of	0	4	1	2	9	3	4
Merseyside	175	190	237	241	283	340	383
Metropolitan Police	1,741	1,993	2,270	2,189	2,492	2,728	2,571
Norfolk	73	99	89	114	120	185	204
North Wales	95	73	96	101	128	114	140
North Yorkshire	38	42	42	49	71	131	120
Northamptonshire	56	60	44	60	97	176	163
Northumbria	125	275	249	227	290	341	338
Nottinghamshire	154	163	237	247	251	239	303
South Wales	123	169	130	125	126	189	191
South Yorkshire	113	108	126	127	121	190	182
Staffordshire	104	114	184	197	210	251	248
Suffolk	82	89	84	100	116	148	172
Surrey	59	69	83	126	118	129	144
Sussex	124	197	215	261	235	348	305
Thames Valley	165	195	233	271	291	365	436
Warwickshire	29	29	20	25	30	62	80
West Mercia	116	103	92	106	173	219	226
West Midlands	264	396	513	565	608	746	816
West Yorkshire	361	437	480	376	439	553	626
Wiltshire	71	88	81	78	89	155	139
England and Wales	6,628	7,636	8,409	8,593	9,734	12,295	13,272

Area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	471	310	430	383	338	365
Bedfordshire	163	195	149	114	164	146
British Transport Police	43	20	19	17	22	17
Cambridgeshire	236	200	209	214	196	197
Cheshire	197	181	170	149	151	167
Cleveland	143	171	140	142	136	153
Cumbria	79	77	73	81	75	112
Derbyshire	273	282	284	235	257	307
Devon and Cornwall	388	400	389	402	431	479
Dorset	163	181	132	210	167	236
Durham	91	158	83	128	121	125
Dyfed-Powys	101	85	102	71	77	129
Essex	334	384	355	296	343	435
Gloucestershire	115	161	160	141	145	145
Greater Manchester	899	842	837	784	834	872
Gwent	112	126	145	177	154	185
Hampshire	616	656	662	595	588	574
Hertfordshire	184	211	199	172	132	187
Humberside	329	350	291	259	230	290
Kent	358	445	395	404	351	340
Lancashire	285	326	288	258	251	255
Leicestershire	308	307	298	343	313	267
Lincolnshire	178	187	155	162	152	158
London, City of	7	6	8	3	1	7
Merseyside	374	378	298	250	223	334
Metropolitan Police	2,446	2,398	2,304	1,904	2,175	2,857
Norfolk	190	230	165	141	141	167
North Wales	159	170	106	153	173	180
North Yorkshire	137	145	135	129	170	151
Northamptonshire	127	159	162	152	176	185
Northumbria	344	359	345	255	261	336

Area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Nottinghamshire	254	265	255	230	301	345
South Wales	185	216	273	264	297	244
South Yorkshire	287	338	267	235	202	275
Staffordshire	306	292	285	243	240	288
Suffolk	180	207	175	170	184	246
Surrey	129	139	138	148	185	204
Sussex	458	424	440	309	370	459
Thames Valley	401	448	437	376	440	597
Warwickshire	85	86	110	107	101	118
West Mercia	214	233	220	241	274	313
West Midlands	973	943	912	827	764	893
West Yorkshire	580	604	617	626	664	665
Wiltshire	111	148	157	137	134	160
England and Wales	14,013	14,443	13,774	12,637	13,104	15,165

n/a = Data not available.

[1] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

[2] Prior to 2009-10, a small number of offences continued to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003. While these may have been legitimately recorded for offences committed prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error, so any changes based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

[3] The number of crimes recorded in that calendar year using the coverage and rules in use until 31 March 1998.

[4] The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the expanded offence coverage and revised Counting Rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

[5] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002, although some forces adopted NCRS practices before the standard was formally introduced. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. The introduction of NCRS led to a rise in recording in 2002/03 and, particularly for violent crime, in the following years as forces continued to improve compliance with the new standard.

[6] Includes the British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.

Table B: Reported domestic violence offences by police force area, 2003-04 to 2009-10[1]

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	11,215	14,364	14,714	15,532	10,719	12,513	16,049
Bedfordshire	7,749	3,984	7,800	7,341	7,289	8,095	8,693
Cambridgeshire	5,959	4,833	7,081	[2]6,874	8,908	11,353	11,603
Cheshire	7,685	[2]4,793	10,038	6,544	4,865	5,491	5,347
Cleveland	9,892	11,429	12,493	10,845	10,879	12,205	13,685
Cumbria	4,343	4,937	3,809	4,372	4,515	4,700	5,079
Derbyshire	13,668	14,761	12,159	11,818	16,425	17,145	18,059
Devon and Cornwall	19,331	20,123	21,417	[2]13,973	23,789	25,872	26,181
Dorset	3,644	4,016	4,962	5,458	5,867	6,517	6,437
Durham	8,262	8,904	8,218	8,163	8,615	[2]8,219	[2]6,054
Dyfed-Powys	3,775	3,960	15,877	9,758	2,836	2,201	2,034
Essex	14,321	[2]15,189	15,082	15,225	17,826	24,668	23,300
Gloucestershire	2,556	6,187	6,407	8,237	8,921	8,697	[2]7,218
Greater Manchester	58,500	56,778	60,977	64,727	[2]35,971	[2]54,055	68,991
Gwent	2,196	2,192	2,249	2,229	7,399	[2]9,605	[2]4,832
Hampshire	19,281	18,787	25,733	23,447	22,912	21,234	24,117
Hertfordshire	6,731	6,068	10,755	10,926	11,280	11,780	11,835
Humberside	6,069	7,711	12,500	12,752	13,444	12,536	15,325
Kent	16,372	18,321	19,355	[2]18,495	20,141	20,710	21,516
Lancashire	23,089	24,813	22,020	22,360	23,030	25,518	28,270
Leicestershire	13,160	[2]12,918	73,393	24,439	9,033	10,651	11,149
Lincolnshire	2,130	1,471	2,515	6,110	5,712	7,125	7,751
London, City of	93	102	83	97	116	[2]243	[2]141
Merseyside	[2]32,052	23,857	23,565	25,568	29,033	30,169	27,110
Metropolitan Police	106,879	[2]91,619	[2]96,903	[2]67,201	84,026	[2]120,720	120,351
Norfolk	8,151	7,937	8,632	7,893	6,241	7,097	9,193
North Wales	4,930	[2]7,203	7,807	[2]9,682	9,860	9,434	10,951
North Yorkshire	4,367	4,926	4,870	5,759	5,466	5,891	9,422
Northamptonshire	6,435	7,012	2,818	6,780	9,586	10,479	10,697
Northumbria	22,325	22,879	22,867	[2]23,262	25,803	26,809	28,318
Nottinghamshire	[2]12,032	12,026	13,738	17,534	19,166	19,657	19,537
South Wales	14,986	[2]14,402	16,791	15,421	[2]16,196	18,423	8,389
South Yorkshire	[2]5,685	[2]13,031	[2]16,582	17,819	16,027	15,829	20,321
Staffordshire	6,354	8,139	16,234	[2]17,672	18,584	19,333	13,927

Table B: Reported domestic violence offences by police force area, 2003-04 to 2009-10[1]

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Suffolk	4,800	5,515	5,515	5,339	[2]6,061	6,021	7,319
Surrey	7,811	11,563	12,498	11,528	10,803	10,779	12,556
Sussex	14,096	15,631	8,336	14,430	15,877	18,872	15,989
Thames Valley	12,693	14,793	17,759	[2]16,744	26,383	26,759	30,839
Warwickshire	[2]4,434	3,455	4,168	[2]6,014	7,305	7,908	8,008
West Mercia	8,897	10,007	[2]10,642	[2]11,775	13,241	[2]15,100	[2]15,444
West Midlands	39,835	38,355	39,729	40,233	37,897	40,980	47,729
West Yorkshire	34,505	34,914	34,857	34,400	30,276	28,412	27,976
Wiltshire	5,930	5,990	6,710	6,600	6,433	6,242	5,783
England and Wales	617,218	619,897	740,657	671,374	674,756	766,047	793,526

[1] All data are provisional and unverified with forces.

[2] Data are estimated for non-response, based on ratios in other forces (e.g. domestic violence incidents; total violence against the person offences).

Table C: Detection rates[1] of rape offences[2, 3] by police force area, 1997 to 2009-10

Area	*1997[4]*	*1998-99[5]*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03[6, 7]*	*2003-04*
Avon and Somerset	n/a	74	62	43	27	22	21
Bedfordshire	n/a	56	43	34	25	29	21
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[8]—	[8]—
Cambridgeshire	n/a	62	56	50	46	29	15
Cheshire	n/a	98	87	86	81	48	29
Cleveland	n/a	91	73	[8]—	65	41	31
Cumbria	n/a	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	64	30
Derbyshire	n/a	73	52	38	39	35	33
Devon and Cornwall	n/a	89	96	77	49	30	19
Dorset	n/a	78	50	36	39	25	17
Durham	n/a	95	85	[8]—	0	68	71
Dyfed-Powys	n/a	[8]—	89	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	25
Essex	n/a	65	64	50	33	32	29
Gloucestershire	n/a	69	66	70	57	31	28
Greater Manchester	n/a	74	64	58	55	46	32
Gwent	n/a	91	92	98	93	80	78
Hampshire	n/a	99	65	58	53	41	34
Hertfordshire	n/a	96	78	66	62	50	50
Humberside	n/a	58	33	37	33	23	20
Kent	n/a	85	90	57	56	38	27
Lancashire	n/a	83	79	53	47	52	35
Leicestershire	n/a	43	37	37	0	26	28
Lincolnshire	n/a	82	87	67	50	40	28
London, City of	n/a	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Merseyside	n/a	78	69	66	53	47	43
Metropolitan Police	n/a	32	28	24	27	29	33
Norfolk	n/a	94	37	35	36	24	18
North Wales	n/a	92	85	59	35	26	29
North Yorkshire	n/a	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	59	43	41
Northamptonshire	n/a	82	[8]—	70	64	53	37
Northumbria	n/a	68	61	50	43	36	30
Nottinghamshire	n/a	55	46	51	36	34	27
South Wales	n/a	93	88	91	90	62	53
South Yorkshire	n/a	79	88	75	72	40	38
Staffordshire	n/a	68	39	38	35	40	32
Suffolk	n/a	73	29	36	30	30	26
Surrey	n/a	48	45	28	42	32	35
Sussex	n/a	55	47	34	35	26	24
Thames Valley	n/a	59	52	26	32	27	18
Warwickshire	n/a	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	27	19
West Mercia	n/a	87	64	56	44	37	35
West Midlands	n/a	68	59	53	45	41	32
West Yorkshire	n/a	83	76	71	55	42	31
Wiltshire	n/a	73	68	31	46	37	41

Table C: Detection rates[1] of rape offences[2, 3] by police force area, 1997 to 2009-10

Area	*1997*[4]	*1998-99*[5]	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[6, 7]	*2003-04*
England and Wales	n/a	64	54	46	41	36	31

Area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	18	22	20	25	21	28
Bedfordshire	23	23	15	18	16	19
British Transport Police	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Cambridgeshire	21	22	15	19	23	27
Cheshire	28	28	30	31	26	18
Cleveland	22	38	34	30	37	32
Cumbria	30	36	47	25	21	21
Derbyshire	28	30	21	28	23	24
Devon and Cornwall	24	18	20	17	19	19
Dorset	16	17	27	18	11	14
Durham	60	26	43	43	44	49
Dyfed-Powys	31	18	28	20	31	29
Essex	27	25	25	19	19	17
Gloucestershire	28	19	21	30	23	23
Greater Manchester	30	31	31	38	31	33
Gwent	51	40	36	20	38	34
Hampshire	25	21	19	21	21	21
Hertfordshire	38	41	28	22	17	16
Humberside	19	23	24	22	28	31
Kent	22	21	23	26	22	29
Lancashire	37	35	37	30	36	37
Leicestershire	23	18	20	12	17	18
Lincolnshire	31	21	24	17	25	13
London, City of	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Merseyside	35	24	28	22	29	24
Metropolitan Police	38	36	34	34	34	24
Norfolk	22	23	24	21	36	25
North Wales	27	25	16	17	18	21
North Yorkshire	35	29	41	26	31	30
Northamptonshire	32	33	25	21	19	36
Northumbria	24	29	33	29	34	30
Nottinghamshire	35	27	31	25	19	26
South Wales	59	29	28	42	39	45
South Yorkshire	29	24	27	34	38	28
Staffordshire	30	26	24	21	24	22
Suffolk	19	24	20	19	15	20
Surrey	24	32	29	24	12	21
Sussex	14	20	15	21	19	21
Thames Valley	24	22	19	19	18	24
Warwickshire	25	19	16	22	29	26
West Mercia	29	27	20	22	23	29
West Midlands	26	30	23	25	30	27
West Yorkshire	25	25	19	24	22	24
Wiltshire	32	33	18	23	35	29
England and Wales	29	27	26	26	26	25

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Offences detected in the current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.

[2] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

[3] Prior to 2009-10, a small number of offences continued to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003. While these may have been legitimately recorded for offences committed prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error, so any changes based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

[4] The number of crimes recorded in that calendar year using the coverage and rules in use until 31 March 1998.

[5] The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the expanded offence coverage and revised Counting Rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

[6] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002, although some forces adopted NCRS practices before the standard was formally introduced. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. The introduction of NCRS led to a rise in recording in 2002-03 and, particularly for violent crime, in the following years as forces continued to improve compliance with the new standard.

[7] Includes the British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.

[8] Data are not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50.

Young Offenders

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pupils permanently excluded from school were convicted of a criminal offence in each police authority area in each of the last 10 years; and what the detection rate was for crimes committed by young offenders who *(a)* were and *(b)* were not permanently excluded from school in each such area in each such year. [52388]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Home Office is responsible for the collection of detections data. Data on detections held by the Home Office do not include information on whether offenders were excluded from school.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the collection of convictions data.

Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database do not include information about the circumstances behind each case other than that which may be identified from a statute. It is not possible to separately identify young offenders who were permanently excluded from school from other offenders.

Police Services

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd of 7 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 862-63W, on police services, (1) whether the policing tasks associated with football matches are included in the policing functions she defines as those undertaken by frontline officers; [48004]

(2) whether warranted police officers working *(a)* in or *(b)* with (i) the Serious Organised Crime Agency, (ii) the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, (iii) the National Wildlife Crime Unit, (iv) the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service and (v) public protection units perform tasks which fall within her definition of frontline policing; [48102]

(3) whether she includes the attendance of warranted police officers at community safety partnership meetings within the categories of activity carried out by frontline police officers. [49152]

Nick Herbert: HMIC's report Demanding Times published on 30 March 2011 provides a definition of frontline, middle office and back office police functions.

The report concludes that

> "the police frontline comprises those who are in everyday contact with the public and who directly intervene to keep people safe and enforce the law".

A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM_20110330.pdf

Full details of policing roles and their categorisation by frontline, middle office and back office appear on page 19 of the report.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anguilla

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Ministers representing the Government of Anguilla have visited his Department in the last three years. [51889]

Mr Bellingham: The number of Ministers representing the Government of Anguilla visiting the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 2008 are:

2008: two visits by two Ministers
2009: five visits by three Ministers
2010: four visits by three Ministers.

There have been no visits to date in 2011.

Anguilla: Tax Havens

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in Anguilla. [51888]

Mr Bellingham: None.

The UK has arrangements in place for information exchange on tax matters, including tax avoidance, with Anguilla.

Arms Trade

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to report to Parliament on the outcomes of the review of UK arms export licensing to the Middle East and North Africa; if he will extend the scope of the review to include all exports to authoritarian regimes; what types of equipment are to be covered by the review; and by what means he plans to consult with *(a)* parliamentarians, *(b)* industry and *(c)* civil society on the content of the review. [51818]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has commissioned a review of Government policy and practice with regard to the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in particular crowd control goods. Although this review was originally commissioned in response to events in the Middle East and North Africa, any conclusions will apply to our procedures for arms exports to all countries. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is leading this internal review in close consultation with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Ministry of Defence. The Government will be reporting back on the review to Parliament after Easter. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on 16 March 2011, any decisions arising from the review will be discussed in Parliament.

Balkans: EU Accession

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Hungarian presidency of the Council of Ministers on the accession process for Western Balkan states to join the EU. [50488]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met Hungarian Foreign Minister, Janos Martonyi, on 7 December in London ahead of the start of the Hungarian EU presidency. They discussed a number of issues including the EU accession process for the countries of the Western Balkans. Both the UK and Hungary consider EU enlargement to all countries of the Western Balkans, on the basis of the accession criteria, as a key strategic priority for the European Union. The Foreign Secretary has since been in regular contact with Mr Martonyi, including at meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe maintains a dialogue, including on enlargement, with his Hungarian counterpart.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British subjects were unlawfully killed overseas in each year since 1997. [45253]

Mr Bellingham: The following table shows the number of British nationals recorded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as having been murdered overseas since 2002. Prior to 2002 we used a different database which recorded only cases handled in London so would provide a partial picture.

Calendar year	*Number of cases*
2002	54
2003	33
2004	77
2005	115
2006	86
2007	81
2008	65
2009	64
2010	64

Some of those unlawfully killed overseas may not have been recorded under this heading. As part of improving the support we provide to victims' families, we are tightening our guidance to staff to ensure we are more consistent in how we compile statistics on the numbers of British citizens who die abroad and how they have died, including those who have been killed unlawfully. To determine these figures for past years would incur disproportionate cost.

British Overseas Territories: Overseas Aid

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department gave to *(a)* Bermuda, *(b)* the British Antarctic Territory, *(c)* the British Indian Ocean Territory, *(d)* the British Virgin Islands, *(e)* the Cayman Islands, *(f)* the Falkland Islands, *(g)* Gibraltar, *(h)* Montserrat, *(i)* Pitcairn, Henderson, Oeno and Ducie Islands, *(j)* Saint Helena and its dependencies, *(k)* South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, *(l)* the Turks and Caicos Islands and *(m)* the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia for economic diversification in the latest period for which figures are available; and from which funds. [52296]

Mr Bellingham: Overseas Territory governments are responsible for their territory's economies and any economic diversification. We are helping territories that are struggling economically to avoid unnecessary financial dependence on the UK. We also help territories that now rely on UK financial support to reduce their dependence and pursue the path towards economic sustainability.

The Department for International Development (DfID) provides funding towards the economic diversification of the poorer territories, currently St Helena, Montserrat and Pitcairn, through its wider programmes of financial assistance.

In 2009-10 DFID provided £22.7 million for St Helena; £20.8 million for Montserrat and £1.8 million for Pitcairn from its capital and programme budgets. Support for economic growth and sustainability is an important focus of Government assistance to the Governments of St Helena and Montserrat.

No funds have been made available specifically for economic diversification purposes to territories with no settled population, namely the British Indian Ocean Territory; the British Antarctic Territory or South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not provide funding for economic diversification to the Sovereign Base Areas which are military bases on the island of Cyprus and are administered by the Ministry of Defence.

The FCO provided £1.4 million from our Overseas Territories Programme Fund in 2010-11 to support reform in the Turks and Caicos Islands in a range of areas, including to promote economic diversification. DFID has put in place a guarantee to provide the Turks and Caicos Islands Government with access to a maximum capital amount of US$260 million over the next five years.

We have not provided funds specifically for economic diversification purposes to any of the other UK Overseas Territories in recent years.

British Overseas Territories: Visits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representatives of the Administration of *(a)* the British Antarctic Territory, *(b)* the British Indian Ocean Territory, *(c)* Pitcairn, Henderson, Oeno and Ducie Islands, *(d)* South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and *(e)* the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia have visited his Department's offices in London in each of the last three years. [52297]

Mr Bellingham: In respect of the British Antarctic Territory and British Indian Ocean Territory, relevant Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials act as representatives of the Administrations of the two territories. These officials are located at FCO offices in London.

For the Pitcairn Islands, one member of the Administration visited in 2008, one in 2009 and none in 2010.

The FCO is usually visited by the Administration of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands at least twice each year. In 2010 the FCO received visits by three representatives.

The Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus are administered by the Ministry of Defence. The FCO does not keep records of visitors for other Government Departments.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Ministers in the Government of *(a)* Bermuda, *(b)* the British Virgin Islands, *(c)* the Cayman Islands, *(d)* the Falkland Islands, *(e)* Gibraltar, *(f)* Montserrat, *(g)* Saint Helena and its dependencies and *(h)* the Turks and Caicos Islands have visited his Department's offices in London in each of the last three years. [52298]

Mr Bellingham: The number of visits to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office conducted by Ministers from the Overseas Territories over the last three calendar years can be broken down as follows. Multiple visits conducted over the course of a calendar year by individual Ministers have also been included.

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Bermuda	1	2	2
British Virgin Islands	1	2	3
Cayman Islands	2	4	3
Falkland Islands[1]	3	4	6
Gibraltar	4	1	1
Montserrat	1	1	1
St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha[1]	3	4	3
Turks and Caicos Islands[2]	2	2	0

[1] Falkland Islands, St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha do not have Ministers. Visits by their elected representatives have been incorporated in the above table.

[2] Ministerial Government in the Turks and Caicos Islands was suspended on 14 August 2009.

Burma: Politics and Government

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how often Government representatives raised issues relating to Burma in meetings of the UN Security Council in 2010. [51553]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As President of the UN Security Council during November 2010, the UK raised Burma in Security Council meetings on 5 November, 18 November and 22 November 2010. The UK also raised our concerns during UN Security Council meetings on 24 March 2011 and 6 December 2010, and British officials in New York speak to their international counterparts in the UN about Burma on a regular basis. Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Prime Minister discussed the matter with the UN Secretary-General in November. The UK Government will continue to highlight the situation in Burma through all avenues in the UN, including through the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and directly with the Secretary-General.

Burma: Sanctions

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives he has set for the outcome of discussions on a common position on sanctions against the Burmese Government at the next meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council. [51885]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government's objective at the Foreign Affairs Council was to secure the renewal of tough but targeted EU restrictive measures that strengthened the position of Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratic opposition groups with the Burmese regime. On 12 April 2011 EU Foreign Ministers agreed to renew EU sanctions for a further 12 months.

Measures renewed include:

1. An arms embargo.
2. An asset freeze and travel ban on the regime, its associates and their families with the measures suspended for a year for lifelong civilians and the Foreign Minister.
3. An investment ban on state and associate-owned enterprises.
4. Trade and investment bans on timber, precious metals and gems.
5. A ban on development assistance to central Government and in sectors other than humanitarian work.

While the measures remain tough, they are also in line with Aung San Suu Kyi's wishes to promote a broad dialogue with the Government and other political groups both inside and outside Parliament to encourage a move towards more democratic institutions.

Children's Rights

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to promote children's rights in the last 10 years; and what plans his Department has to promote such rights *(a)* in developing countries and *(b)* elsewhere. [51725]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are committed to improving the situation of children worldwide. We work bilaterally, in multilateral forums, and fund programmes that are designed to promote and protect the rights of all children as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols.

Over the last decade the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has played an active role in promoting the rights of the child. We continue to work to ensure that international commitments are fully implemented, whether through making the UN and other international bodies more effective in their efforts to promote and protect child rights, or through various bilateral projects. We have also committed financial and political resources to tackling the issue of child soldiers. We will continue to take steps to safeguard children's rights in countries affected by conflict.

Our embassies and high commissions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights issues, including children's rights, in their host countries. FCO staff routinely raise our concerns with host governments and where possible they take action on individual cases and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws. The FCO will continue to raise child rights with other governments when necessary. We will also work in the UN and with other international organisations to uphold universal standards.

China: Human Rights

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on its treatment of Ai Weiwei and his colleagues. [52370]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs made clear in a public statement on 4 April 2011 our concerns about the detention of Ai Weiwei. He called on the Chinese Government to clarify Mr Ai's situation and wellbeing and hoped that he would be released immediately. On 11 April my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister raised the case of Ai Weiwei and those of other dissidents detained in recent weeks when he met Secretary of the Communist Party of China Shanghai Municipal Committee, Yu Zhengsheng. Senior officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also raised the case of Ai Weiwei with the Chinese embassy in London. We will continue to monitor developments in Mr Ai's case closely and look for further appropriate opportunities to raise our concerns.

China: Trade Unions

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on the right of workers in that country to join a trade union. [52376]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have not had any recent discussions with the Chinese Government on the specific issue of the right of workers to join a trade union. However we have consistently urged the Chinese to make progress on all areas that would lead to the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which includes the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions.

Colombia

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Colombian authorities on the detention of Professor Miguel Angel Beltran in a high security unit in La Picota prison, Bogota. [52345]

Mr Jeremy Browne: A representative of our embassy attended the opening of Dr Beltran Villegas' trial on 11 November. Our ambassador raised Dr Beltran Villegas' case in a meeting with the Head of the Vice-President's Unit for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law on 17 November 2010. His case was also raised in the EU-Colombia human rights dialogue on 23 November 2010.

Most recently, I raised our general human rights concerns with the Colombian Vice Minister for Defence Yaneth Giha on 11 January and Deputy Foreign Minister Patti Londono on 26 January and discussed ways in which the UK can support efforts to improve the situation in Colombia.

We will continue to underline to the Colombian authorities that those charged with crimes should have their legal rights fully respected, including to a fair and efficient trial but we cannot interfere in Colombia's judicial process.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Elections

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the parliamentary and presidential elections in that country in November 2011. [51802]

Mr Bellingham: Our ambassador to Kinshasa has met senior figures in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government including the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Interior Minister and the Presidents of the National Assembly and Senate to discuss the elections. He stressed that the elections must be credible and well administered with the right to freedom of expression protected for opposition candidates, civil society, and journalists. Recently Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials met the head of the independent national electoral commission (CENI) who agreed to manage the electoral process in consultation with opposition parties and the international community.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department was in each such year. [50839]

Mr Bellingham: The following costs are based on financial years:

2010-11

95 staff left under Flexible or Compulsory Early Retirement terms (FER/CER). 13 left under a voluntary exit scheme run under the new Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS). The total cost to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) was £13,170,378. This includes a sum of £819,928 which went to buying out the actuarial reduction of the pension for the seven staff who chose this option under the CSCS. 23 left under Approved Early Retirement (AER) terms with a total cost of £2,128,806.

2009-10

111 staff left under FER/CER terms and the total cost to the FCO was £12,407,375. 10 left under AER terms with a total cost of £1,748,774.

2008-09

79 left under FER/CER terms and the total cost was £10,986,999.

2007-08

103 left under FER/CER terms, and the total cost to the FCO was £18,918,138. 17 left under AER terms and the total cost was £777,707.

2006-07

84 left under FER/CER terms and the total cost to the FCO was £11,269,250. Three left under AER terms and the total cost was £489,251.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51523]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is currently considering work force planning options for the comprehensive spending review period which runs to the end of financial year 2014-15. The FCO's funding reduces in real terms by around 10% over this period and the work force will also reduce broadly in line with the budget. The FCO is subject to the Government-wide recruitment freeze and we expect that the necessary reductions should be achievable through retirement and voluntary early departure.

We do not hold details of non-departmental public bodies' work force plans.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51421]

Mr Lidington: From centrally recorded accounts the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided 3,259 mobile devices for officers in the UK and overseas. This figure does not include any purchases made overseas using devolved budgets. Records of such purchases are not held centrally and are only available at disproportionate cost. Under normal circumstances each officer would have only one device.

The latest information covering 1 April to 31 December 2010 shows that the FCO spent £1.9 million on mobile devices globally. All numbers and figures provided above may have included devices and spend for other Government Departments working alongside the FCO.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 956W, on departmental public appointments, for what reasons the answer referred to a website address that is not operational; and how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men who held public appointments in bodies sponsored by his Department are no longer in those roles as a result of decisions to merge, close or reorganise such bodies taken since his appointment. [51444]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The website link given in my previous answer leads to the Public Bodies 2009 report which has the latest summary information.

The changes to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office arm's length bodies as a result of this process have resulted in the loss of one job, held by a man.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which overseas offices, departments and places of business funded by his Department, excluding embassies and consulates, are funded directly or indirectly by *(a)* his Department only, *(b)* devolved administrations, *(c)* local government and *(d)* non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible. [50958]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) operates a network of over 260 posts overseas for Her Majesty's Government. Some do not have formal status as an embassy or consulate, such as our missions to multilateral and other international bodies or other offices, for example, the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gah.

Where devolved administrations, local government and/or non-departmental bodies are present in these missions, the FCO would seek to recover any costs incurred.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have met Ministers in the Government of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* India and *(d)* China since May 2010. [48334]

Mr Hague: My ministerial team and I have met Ministers in the Governments of Brazil, Russia, India and China on numerous occasions since May 2010. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have also attended numerous bilateral and multilateral meetings and conferences at which Ministers from these Governments have been present.

Diplomatic Service: Human Rights

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many and what proportion of British *(a)* embassies, *(b)* High Commissions and *(c)* other overseas posts have a dedicated human rights officer; [50911]

(2) how many British embassies, High Commissions and overseas posts have a dedicated trade officer; [50913]

(3) how many UK-based staff of his Department work exclusively on human rights issues; and what proportion of the total number of UK-based staff of his Department this represents; [50914]

(4) what proportion of the total number of staff of his Department work exclusively on *(a)* human rights and *(b)* trade issues. [50915]

Mr Bellingham: Promoting human rights is an integral part of our foreign policy. All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) missions overseas have a responsibility to consider human rights in all of our bilateral and multilateral work and to raise concerns about human rights wherever and whenever they arise.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs launched the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) 2010 report on human rights and democracy on 31 March 2011. The report is a comprehensive look at human rights work of the FCO around the world in 2010.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1186W, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the right hon. Member for South Shields (David Miliband), which details the number of staff in London working exclusively on human rights issues. These staff are assisted by geographical teams at home and by staff at FCO missions overseas.

32 UK-based FCO civil servants work full-time on trade and investment issues in London. They are assisted by staff in geographical teams at home and other UK Trade and Investment and non-UK Trade and Investment UK-based staff at FCO missions overseas. Staff recruited locally to work at posts overseas also work on trade and investment issues.

For operational and security reasons we cannot give further details of staff deployments and activity levels.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provision exists for the consideration of human rights issues at British embassies, High Commissions and overseas posts which do not have a dedicated human rights officer. [50912]

Mr Bellingham: All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) overseas missions monitor and raise human rights with their host countries. Since human rights are an integral part of the FCO's work, many FCO staff at home and overseas work directly on human rights issues, including Heads of Mission and some staff recruited locally. The FCO human rights and democracy department in London supports our embassies, high commissions and overseas posts in the pursuit of their human rights objectives by providing specialist thematic advice, training and guidance materials. All FCO staff have access to a wide range of thematic human rights resources.

East Africa: Mining

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on project-by-project due diligence reporting by UK registered companies engaged in mineral extraction in the Great lakes region of Africa. [51801]

Mr Bellingham: On 29 March 2011 I hosted a trade event, bringing together global experts on business, human rights, conflict and natural resources to provide advice and expertise to British business potentially dealing in conflict minerals. I invited a number of ministerial colleagues with an interest in the corporate social responsibility agenda.

The UK Government encourage British companies trading in natural resources from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and its neighbouring countries to do so in a way which is socially, economically and environmentally responsible, including adhering to the voluntary guidelines set out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The UK has been a strong supporter of work by the OECD and UN DRC Group of Experts to produce a clear set of due diligence guidelines for companies trading in minerals from eastern DRC.

We have launched new pages on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website designed to help companies trading in minerals originating in conflict-affected areas identify the different guidelines and regulation that may apply to them and where they can find further information:

www.fco.gov.uk/conflictminerals

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer raised the issue of international rules on extractives transparency at February's G20 Finance Ministers meeting and made clear that the UK will be arguing for a European agreement that matches the new standards set in the US.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Egyptian Supreme Council of the Armed Forces on *(a)* ending the state of emergency, *(b)* the release of political prisoners and *(c)* the establishment of an interim civilian authority in that country. [51800]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister visited Egypt on 21 February 2011. He met Field Marshal Tantawi, Head of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, and emphasised Egypt's opportunity to make a genuine transition from military to civilian democratic rule. He stressed the importance of setting a clear timetable for elections and of pursuing a broad-based dialogue with opposition groups. He also called on the military authorities to release all political prisoners and end the state of emergency.

We will continue to encourage the Egyptian authorities to fulfil their commitments, especially safeguarding the legitimate demands of the people and overseeing a transition to a democratic, civilian-led government. In a telephone call to the Egyptian Prime Minister on 8 March 2011 the Prime Minister reinforced the UK's support for a successful transition, and I discussed this in detail with senior Egyptian Ministers during my visit to Egypt from 9 to 11 March 2011.

EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the proportion of UK residents who have not received adequate information about the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; and if he will take steps to ensure that the UK is not subject to the provisions of the Charter. [52470]

Mr Lidington: As the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU does not create any new justiciable rights or change the current status of fundamental rights as they apply in EU law, the Government do not believe it would be a cost effective use of resources to estimate the proportion of UK residents that do not feel well informed about the Charter.

The Charter and the Lisbon treaty have not changed the content or effect of EU fundamental rights as they apply in EU law. It has long been recognised that fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Court of Human Rights and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the member states, constitute general principles of EU law (as confirmed by Article 6(3) TEU). The Charter and the Lisbon treaty do not give the European Court of Justice or national courts any new powers to strike down national laws and practices for breaching fundamental rights. Furthermore, the UK is required to comply with the fundamental rights restated in the Charter only when it is giving effect to EU law, reflecting the long-standing case law of the European Court of Justice. These limits on the effects of the Charter are confirmed by both Protocol No. 30 to the treaties and the terms of the Charter and the treaties themselves.

EU Fundamental Rights Agency

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the EU Fundamental Rights Agency has spent in each year since its inception; and how many staff it has employed in each such year. [52474]

Mr Lidington: The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' (FRA) annual accounts are published online. According to their reports, their expenditure was €14.2 million in 2007, €15 million in 2008, €17 million in 2009 and €20 million in 2010. These accounts have been subject to UK parliamentary scrutiny.

The FRA have informed us that they employed 45 members of staff in 2007, 47 in 2008, 65 in 2009 and 78 in 2010. They currently employ a total of 83 members of staff.

European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution he plans to make to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers informal meeting on 5 April 2011 on preparing a draft declaration for adoption at the High Level Conference on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the representations the Government have made on this matter. [50271]

Mr Lidington: The UK will contribute fully to ensure that the draft declaration reflects our priorities for reform of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

The Government have participated actively in discussions within the Council of Europe on the reform of the ECtHR. This has not involved the submission of formal written representations on this issue.

European External Action Service

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which vacant posts in the European External Action Service have been notified to his Department; and whether he has been consulted on filling such vacancies. [51772]

Mr Lidington: 220 positions have been advertised in the European External Action Service (EEAS) since March 2010. Of these 62 are in Brussels and 158 in European Union delegations. The advertisements are sent to all member states and are advertised in the EU institutions. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office circulates the details internally as well as across Whitehall, processes applications from British candidates and forwards them to Brussels. Appointments into the EEAS are made in Brussels, based on an open, meritocratic system. Many of the jobs are still being processed, but a number of British candidates have either been successful or reached the final stages of the application process.

I am consulted and informed, where appropriate, about candidates for senior positions.

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Gibraltar. [52065]

Mr Lidington: I visited Gibraltar on 12-13 April 2011 this year. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs currently has no plans to visit.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Spanish and *(b)* Gibraltarian counterpart on Gibraltar's sovereign territorial waters. [52066]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government are confident of their sovereignty over British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. We continue to make this clear to Spain whenever appropriate at official and ministerial level. The issue was raised by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with his Spanish counterpart, Trinidad Jimenez during their meeting on 17 February 2011 in London. I discussed this with the Chief Minister during my visit to Gibraltar on 12-13 April 2011.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what customs procedures operate for Gibraltarian citizens who cross the border from Spain to Gibraltar. [52067]

Mr Lidington: Gibraltar is outside the EU Common Customs Area and full Customs controls therefore apply to all persons entering or leaving Gibraltar. Customs are a matter for the Government of Gibraltar.

On the Gibraltar side of the border foot passengers pass through a customs hall immediately after passport control when entering Gibraltar. Vehicles can choose to enter either a green "nothing to declare" or red "goods to declare" lane after passport control. Any foot passenger or vehicle, whether of Gibraltarian or other origin, may be stopped by customs officials.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government of Gibraltar received from the EU in each of the last five years. [52068]

Mr Lidington: Funding from the European Union for Gibraltar is allocated on a multi-year basis, Gibraltar receives funding from the UK's allocation of Structural Funds under the European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness and Employment programme. For the seven year period to 2013, this amounts to €5.8 million. This is a specific operational programme for Gibraltar, and is managed by the Gibraltar Government.

From 2007-13, Gibraltar will receive €3.3 million from the European Social Fund (ESF). While the Gibraltar Government manage their ESF allocation, it is part of the national England and Gibraltar Convergence, Competitiveness and Employment programme.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from his Department are posted to Gibraltar. [52070]

Mr Bellingham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South (Mr Alexander) on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 993-97W.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the Annual Activity Report 2010 by the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, CommDH(2011)4; and if he will make a statement; [51684]

(2) with reference to the Annual Activity Report 2010 by the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, CommDH(2011)4, what his policy is on the request by the Commissioner for Human Rights for an increase in the resources available to the Commissioner; and what assessment he has made of an appropriate level of resources for the Commissioner; [51685]

(3) with reference to the Annual Activity Report 2010 of the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, CommDH(2011)4, what his policy is on the request by the Commissioner for Human Rights to increase the permanent posts available to the Commissioner from 19 to 30; and what assessment he has made of the appropriate staffing level for the Commissioner's office; [51686]

(4) To with reference to the Annual Activity Report 2010 by the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, CommDH(2011)4, when the report will be discussed by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers; and whether the Government plans to approve its contents. [51693]

Mr Lidington: The report will be presented to the Committee of Ministers on 25 May. We will study it carefully.

India: Foreign Relations

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress of UK-Indian relations following the delegation in July 2010; what steps the Government are taking to strengthen UK-India relations; and what trade opportunities between the UK and India he expects to arise in the next 12 months. [52478]

Alistair Burt: The bilateral relationship with India sits on solid foundations, and the UK is committed to making this partnership stronger, wider and deeper to mutual benefit. Since my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's visit, and the summit with Indian Prime Minister Singh in July 2010, we have set in train an ambitious agenda of practical co-operation.

A number of further visits, including by Cabinet Ministers, have taken place in both directions. A significant UK trade delegation accompanied my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on a visit to India in January for the annual Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) talks. In February, the India-UK Chief Executive Officers (CEO) Forum met for the first time, with CEOs from both countries discussing ways to improve bilateral trade and investment with the Prime Minister and other Ministers. This was followed by a first visit by my noble Friend the Minister for Trade and Investment to India in March. One of the largest ever foreign investment deals in India was announced in March when BP signed a new $7.2 billion oil and gas partnership with Reliance Industries.

A new phase in the UK/India education and research initiative will further enhance co-operation between educational institutions and provide a platform for the increased ties in science and technology that will help drive economic growth on both sides. Co-operation also continues in the areas of defence, counter terrorism and climate change. India's new membership of the UN Security Council also provides an opportunity to engage even more closely on key international issues.

In the next 12 months, we expect to support an ever-increasing number of firms doing business in and investigating the Indian market to encourage progress toward the agreed target to double trade by 2015. We will support trade missions both ways, work with relevant bodies such as the UK India Business Council (UKIBC), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and the Indian High Commission to promote opportunities, and encourage greater collaboration and business through Government-to-Government mechanisms such as the next PM-PM summit, economic and financial dialogue, JETCO and CEO Forum. We will also promote the successful conclusion of an EU-India Free Trade Agreement and work with India towards a conclusion of the Doha Round, which will give rise to trade opportunities for both countries.

Indian Ocean: Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department considers the Indian Ocean to be an at risk zone in respect of piracy. [51788]

Mr Bellingham: Yes. I refer the right hon. Member to my response of 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 431-32W. Acts of piracy occur across the world, although they are most prevalent in parts of the Indian ocean.

Military forces define the high risk area by the coordinates of the voluntary reporting scheme used by the UK Maritime Trade Operation and industry-agreed Best Management Practice. These co-ordinates are the Suez canal to the north, 10°S latitude and 78°E longitude. Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice advises against all but essential travel in the area and uses the following latitude and longitude: 15°N in the Red sea, 23°N in the Arabian sea, 78°E and 15°S in the Indian ocean.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Iranian Government on the sentences of Baha'i leaders imprisoned in 2010. [51799]

Alistair Burt: I remain deeply concerned about the plight of the seven Baha'i leaders still in custody in Iran. I strongly condemn the recent rushed re-trial of the leaders, and their re-sentencing to 20 years in prison. We remain clear that the leaders are being tried for no more than practising their faith. On 4 April 2011 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs released a statement calling on the Iranian judiciary to review the case and calling on Iran to cease the persecution of members of the Baha'i faith. We continue regularly to raise the case of the Baha'i leaders and discrimination against the Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, including twice with the Iranian Chargé d'affaires in February and March. It is important that we keep the international spotlight on Iran and highlight the frequent abuses as they occur.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he plans to make representations to the Government of Iran on the increase in sentences for members of the Baha'i faith imprisoned in Iran; [51841]

(2) what reports he has received of arbitrary increases in the prison sentences of members of the Baha'i faith imprisoned in Iran. [51868]

Alistair Burt: I remain deeply concerned about the plight of the seven Baha'i leaders still in custody in Iran. I strongly condemn the recent rushed re-trial of the leaders, and their re-sentencing to 20 years in prison. We remain clear that the leaders are being tried for no more than practising their faith. On 4 April my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs released a statement calling on the Iranian judiciary to review the case and calling on Iran to cease the persecution of members of the Baha'i faith. We continue regularly to raise the case of the Baha'i leaders and discrimination against the Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, including twice with the Iranian chargé d'affaires in February and March. It is important that we keep the international spotlight on Iran and highlight the frequent abuses as they occur.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent meetings the UK's diplomatic representative to Iran has had with the Iranian authorities on the trial of Mrs Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr Afif Maimi, Mr Saeid Rezaie, Mrs Mahvash Sabet, Mr Behrouz Tavakkoli and Mr Vahid Tizfahm; [52108]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 225-26W, on Iran: trials, what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the trial of Mrs Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr Afif Maimi, Mr Saeid Rezaie, Mrs Mahvash Sabet, Mr Behrouz Tavakkoli and Mr Vahid Tizfahm. [52191]

Alistair Burt: I remain deeply concerned about the plight of the seven Baha'i leaders still in custody in Iran. I strongly condemn the recent rushed re-trial of the leaders, and their re-sentencing to 20 years in prison. We remain clear that the leaders are being tried for no more than practising their faith. On 4 April my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs released a statement calling on the Iranian judiciary to review the case and calling on Iran to cease the persecution of members of the Baha'i faith. We continue regularly to raise the case of the Baha'i leaders and discrimination against the Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, including twice with the Iranian chargé d'affaires in February and March. It is important that we keep the international spotlight on Iran and highlight the frequent abuses as they occur.

Iran: Human Rights

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iran on respect for human rights in that country. [52109]

Alistair Burt: The human rights situation in Iran remains deeply disturbing and was highlighted prominently in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Command Paper, placed in the House on 31 March 2011. The UK has been at the forefront of recent action in the EU to apply restrictive measures against human rights abusers in Iran. The UK also worked to support the establishment of a UN Special Rapporteur for Iran, and highlighted the human rights situation in Iran in statements in the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva in March. On a bilateral level, we continue to highlight our concerns and request additional information about specific cases during meetings with the Iranian embassy in London, and through the our embassy in Tehran. We will continue to do so, while also making clear statements condemning cases where injustice has occurred.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of violence and alleged human rights abuses in Sulaymania. [51798]

Alistair Burt: We have received reports of intimidation and violence being committed against journalists and protestors during recent demonstrations across Iraq, including the Kurdistan region. Following the demonstrations, I released the following statement on 10 March:

> "We have been following events in Iraq closely. We are concerned at a number of reports of harassment of protestors, including political groups associated with the protests, and of violence against journalists and media offices across Iraq. We call on the Iraqi and Kurdish authorities to investigate these incidents and to protect the right to freedom of expression and assembly."

Officials at our embassy in Iraq regularly discuss the human rights situation with senior members of the Iraqi Government, and raise concerns when appropriate. Our consul-general in Erbil recently made representations to the Kurdistan regional Government about the importance of respecting the rights and freedoms of protestors.

Libya: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the effectiveness of arrangements for the evacuation of British nationals from Libya in comparison with *(a)* the evacuation from Lebanon in 2006 and *(b)* other recent evacuations; and if he will make a statement. [48876]

Alistair Burt: Each evacuation takes place in different circumstances and under different constraints. This makes it difficult to compare evacuations directly. In Lebanon in 2006, some 4,500 persons, including around 2,000 British nationals, were safely evacuated by British forces, the majority by sea. The recent crises in Tunisia and Egypt were examples of how we have assisted the departure of British nationals from a country without reaching the stage of a formal evacuation. In Tunisia we worked closely with tour operators to repatriate more than 3,000 British nationals. In Egypt we helped over 2,000 British nationals to leave the country by commercial means and arranged two charter flights to facilitate the departure of a further 200 British nationals and their dependants. In Libya, around 140 British nationals were evacuated by sea and over 450 by air, using a combination of civilian and military flights. In addition, over 150 British nationals were evacuated from remote desert locations using military assets. In total the UK evacuated over 1,600 people from Libya, including nationals from 54 countries.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) always carries out a lessons learned exercise following any crisis, including evacuations. Additionally, the FCO is carrying out a review of arrangements for leading an evacuation of British nationals in a crisis. The review will consider the contingency arrangements that the FCO has in place and the triggers and procedures for moving to a crisis footing and mounting civilian and military evacuation operations.

Middle East: Anti-semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on attitudes to Jews in the Arab world; what recent discussions he has had with the Arab League about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [50302]

Alistair Burt: The Government strongly condemn the continued prevalence of anti-Semitism around the world and promote policies to tackle this through a range of international organisations. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries and routinely raise our concerns with host Governments, including freedom of religion or belief when appropriate.

Attitudes towards Jewish people across the Arab world are linked to attitudes towards Israel. We receive independent research on these issues from institutions such as Chatham House, Carnegie Middle East Centre and the Brookings Institute. The latter, in association with the University of Maryland, produced a report last autumn mapping Arab public opinion towards Israel, across six Arab states, from 2008 until 2010. They reported that in 2010 just over half of the respondents were prepared for peace with Israel upon a successful conclusion of the peace process.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the conclusions of the report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict; and if he will make a statement. [51858]

Alistair Burt: The Goldstone report outlines serious allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law during the Gaza conflict. Justice Goldstone acknowledges in his recent comments that some aspects of his report would look differently in light of new evidence, correcting the allegation in the report that Israel intentionally targeted civilians.

Justice Goldstone has made clear that there is no reason to reconsider the various other serious allegations contained in the report at this time.

This latest insight into the events surrounding the Gaza conflict have come about because of the process that was set in train by his Fact Finding Mission, and is absolutely consistent with our longstanding policy of calling for full, credible and independent investigations by the parties into any and all allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law.

Allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law made against all parties to the Gaza conflict are not limited to the Goldstone report and have arisen from various other credible sources. We firmly believe that any and all such allegations must be met with credible and independent investigations by the parties to the conflict.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on rocket attacks from Gaza on 25 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51956]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Tel Aviv monitors rocket attacks on Israel closely. As we have consistently made clear all such attacks should stop. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs made a statement on these issues on 25 March 2011:

> "I am extremely concerned at the escalating violence in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories over the past week. We have seen a surge in rockets and mortars launched at Israeli civilians from the Gaza strip. This is abhorrent. Three people have been injured, many more are living in fear. Six Palestinian civilians, including four children, have been killed as a result of Israeli actions in the Gaza strip. We have urged the Israeli government to ensure everything is done to avoid further civilian casualties while calling for a complete end to attacks on Israel.
>
> And we have seen the terrible sight—which we hoped belonged to the past—of a bomb at a bus station in Jerusalem. A British woman was killed and more than 30 injured. I condemn this attack in the strongest terms and call for those responsible to be held to account. Elsewhere, we have seen Israeli settlers opening fire on a Palestinian funeral procession, wounding two mourners. Also, another Palestinian was stabbed in an unprovoked attack.
>
> We condemn the extremists who are instigating this violence and who are deliberately attempting to wreck the chances of peace. We call on all sides to do all that they can to prevent further loss of innocent life, to bring the perpetrators to justice and to reduce current tensions."

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the deployment of the Iron Dome missile defence system outside Be'er Sheva, Israel on 27 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [51957]

Alistair Burt: Israel has the right to defend its citizens. We respect and recognise that fact. The stationing of an anti-rocket defence system around Be'er Sheva is an important step in this context.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the location by Hezbollah of missile bunkers adjacent to civilian facilities south of the Litani river in Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [51958]

Alistair Burt: International investigations carried out after the 2006 Lebanon Israel war found that Hezbollah often stored and fired weaponry from civilian buildings. There is no reason to believe that Hezbollah would reconsider operating from civilian buildings in any future conflict with Israel. Reports suggest extensive preparations for Hezbollah to fight in built up areas south of the Litani.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701 calls for a full ceasefire, including no weapons south of the Litani River. We remain concerned by reports of weapons transfers to Hezbollah, including Hezbollah's own claims that it possesses significant military capabilities.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) during his visit to Syria in January made clear and firm representations to President Assad and Foreign Minister Muallem on the dangers to the stability of the region in allowing the smuggling of weapons to Hezbollah. My officials continue to raise UN Security Council Resolution 1701 at a senior level in both Beirut and Damascus.

North Africa: Refugees

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he had discussions with his Italian counterpart on the *(a)* physical condition and *(b)* human rights of refugees from North Africa who have arrived in Lampedusa in the last three months; and whether he has had discussions with his EU counterparts on (i) resettlement capacity, (ii) resettlement programmes, (iii) assessment of needs, (iv) resources for the processing of applications and resettlement needs, (v) resources for (A) children, (B) women at risk of physical, sexual or psychological violence or exploitation, (C) survivors of torture, (D) people with urgent medical or other special needs and (E) disabled people and (vi) integration support and services for resettlement in respect of refugees from North Africa; and if he will make a statement. [51326]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 5 April 2011]:* The Council of the European Union is considering carefully the impact of current events in North Africa on migratory flows. At its meeting on 11 March, the European Council asked the Justice and Home Affairs Council to consider how to develop capacities to manage migration and refugee flows. The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for the Home Department will report the outcome of meetings of the Justice and Home Affairs Council and of the European Council to the House as usual, including progress on this issue. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not had any specific bilateral discussions with his Italian counterpart on this issue.

Palestinians

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the naming of a town square in the Palestinian town Al-Bireh after Dalal al-Murghrabi; and if he will make a statement. [52231]

Alistair Burt: The UK deplores all incitement to violence. The naming of a square after the leader of the 1978 terrorist attack would have been distasteful under any circumstances, but particularly so in the wake of the murders that occurred in Itamar. We also strongly oppose the payment of cash directly linked to acts of violence. Our consulate general in Jerusalem will raise these issues with the Fatah Leadership.

We welcomed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' condemnation of the murders that occurred in Itamar. He said they were despicable, immoral and inhuman, We endorse President Abbas' commitment to a path of non-violence and a negotiated solution to the peace process.

Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had discussions with the Save our Seafarers Campaign on action against piracy. [51789]

Mr Bellingham: I meet regularly with shipping industry and shipping union representatives, including those involved in the SOS Save Our Seafarers campaign, and discuss the plight of seafarers, which is a matter of great concern to the Government. The Government support the six key actions proposed by the campaign, have advocated these actions strongly with our partners through the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, and distributed them to UN Security Council members through the UK Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

President of the European Council: Operating Costs

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the running costs of the office of the President of the European Council. [50489]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe has not received any specific reports on the running costs of the office of the President of the European Council.

The Council President's budget is part of the general budget of the European Council and Council of Ministers (Section II of the European Union budget). For 2012, the Council has proposed savings of 4.4% which we have welcomed, although we believe that the Council should go even further. Indeed, the EU institutions must set an example of reform, with a robust value for money drive, in line with the austerity measures and public spending reprioritisation in member states.

Somaliland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has given to UK nationals *(a)* living in and *(b)* visiting Somaliland in the last five years. [50410]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against all travel to Somalia, including Somaliland. There is no British representation in any part of Somalia and we are unable to provide consular assistance there. However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through its embassy in Addis Ababa and High Commission in Nairobi, has provided some consular assistance to British nationals there, most often issuing replacement passports.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the number of UK nationals who have *(a)* visited and *(b)* worked in Somaliland in the each of the last five years. [50411]

Mr Bellingham: We are unable to estimate the number of British nationals who have visited Somaliland in each of the last five years. We are aware that British nationals work in Somaliland on a short term basis with the UN and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and that many dual nationals visit Somaliland, but do not have precise figures. We advise against all travel to Somalia, including Somaliland. We urge anyone travelling to Somaliland in spite of our travel advice to register with us. There are 65 registered at present.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions has he had with representatives of the administration in Somaliland. [50414]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not yet held discussions with any members of the Somaliland administration. However, I held discussions with President Silanyo in November 2010. I also met the Somaliland Foreign Minister, Minister for Planning and Development and Minister for Mining, Energy and Water Resources at the Somaliland investment conference on 31 March 2011.

Somaliland: British Nationals Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of crimes against British tourists in Somaliland in the last 12 months. [52073]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There have been no specific reports of crimes against British tourists in Somaliland in the past year. Our consular office in Addis Ababa, which covers Somaliland, has issued a number of emergency travel documents to British nationals over the last 12 months. But we have no evidence that these documents were required as a result of crime in Somaliland.

Sudan: Referendums

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Sudanese counterpart and *(b)* officials of the Sudanese government on determining the borders of Abyei. [51244]

Mr Bellingham: I raised the issue of Abyei when I met Presidential Adviser Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail on 28 March 2011. Our ambassador in Khartoum and the UK Special Representative for Sudan regularly discuss Abyei with the Governments in both Khartoum and Juba. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs issued a joint statement with his US and Norwegian Troika colleagues on 15 March 2011 urging both parties to resume their dialogue on post-referendum issues, including Abyei.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the situation at the Abyei border in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [51245]

Mr Bellingham: We have been very concerned at the recent clashes in the Abyei region, including those on 27-28 February 2011 and 1-2 March 2011 between Northern and Southern groups in the area.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration issued its judgment on the Abyei boundary on 22 July 2009. Both the National Congress Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement agreed to abide by the decision.

Supermarkets

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had any meetings since September 2010 with representatives of *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* Sainsbury's, *(c)* Asda, *(d)* Morrisons and *(e)* trade associations of which these companies are members. [52212]

Mr Lidington: No such meetings have taken place.

Tax Avoidance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore avoidance of UK taxes in *(a)* Bermuda, *(b)* the British Virgin Islands, *(c)* the Cayman Islands, *(d)* the Falkland Islands, *(e)* Gibraltar, *(f)* Montserrat and *(g)* the Turks and Caicos Islands. [52299]

Mr Bellingham: None.

The UK has arrangements in place for information exchange on tax matters, including tax avoidance, with all of the above mentioned territories.

Tristan da Cunha: Oil

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the damage caused to *(a)* the environment and *(b)* natural life following the collision of MS Oliva with Nightingale Island on 16 March 2011; what (i) equipment and (ii) personnel he plans to send to Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands; what bird life he has assessed as being at risk in the region; and if he will make a statement on any assistance he plans to send to the population of Tristan da Cunha in respect of the crisis. [51516]

Mr Bellingham: Leaked fuel oil from the wreck of the MV Oliva has washed ashore on Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands. It has impacted both protected wildlife and the fisheries on which the islands' economy relies. The Tristan authorities and community are working hard to help the wildlife affected by the oil. The greatest impact has so far been on the Northern Rockhopper penguins, some 4,000 of which have been moved to Tristan Island for cleaning and rehabilitation. The fisheries at Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands will remain closed until testing has been completed. The full impact on the wildlife and fisheries will take time to assess.

The responsibility to clean up the damage caused to the environment of the Tristan da Cunha islands and to compensate the Tristan community for any losses lies with the ship's owners and insurers. We are determined that they will continue to meet this responsibility in full. We have also been in close touch with the Tristan da Cunha authorities throughout and are ensuring that they have all the advice and support they need from across Government and elsewhere.

While the Government are quite clear that all costs resulting from this incident must be borne by the owners and insurers of the vessel, a top-up to Tristan da Cunha's financial reserves of £500,000 has been made from Foreign and Commonwealth Office funds to protect the community against immediate and short-term expenditure. A salvage tug carried the first material for the clean up to the islands. Additional equipment and personnel arrived at Tristan Island on 4 April 2011 and a further vessel carrying supplies reached Tristan on 12 April. The remoteness of the site and the demanding conditions mean, however, that this is a very difficult operation.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he has provided with the clean up operation resulting from the MS Oliva bunker oil leak in Tristan da Cunha. [52063]

Mr Bellingham: The responsibility to clean up the damage caused to the environment of the Tristan da Cunha islands, and to compensate the Tristan community for any losses lies with the ship's owners and insurers. We are determined that they will continue to meet this responsibility in full. We have also been in close touch with the Tristan da Cunha Authorities throughout and are ensuring that they have all the advice and support they need from across Government and elsewhere.

The Tristan Authorities and community are working hard to help the wildlife affected by the oil, and to clean up the pollution from the wreck. Equipment and expert help has been supplied by the wrecked vessel's insurers. The fisheries at Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands will remain closed until testing has been completed. But the full impacts on the wildlife and fisheries will take time to assess.

While the Government are quite clear that all costs resulting from this incident must be borne by the owners and insurers of the vessel, a top-up of £500,000 has been made to Tristan da Cunha's financial reserves from Foreign and Commonwealth Office funds to protect the community against immediate and short-term expenditure.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken in relation to the salvage of M.S. Oliva on Nightingale Island, Tristan da Cunha. [52064]

Mr Bellingham: We have ensured that the Tristan da Cunha authorities have had expert advice from across Government and elsewhere on all issues arising from the wreck of the Motor Vessel (MV) Oliva.

The responsibility for any salvage of the wreck lies with the owners and insurers of the vessel. A salvage tug spent over a week at the site. But poor sea and weather conditions and the deterioration of the wreck meant it was too dangerous to attempt salvage. The next opportunity to review the condition of the wreck properly and to consider its future will be after the austral winter, the onset of which is imminent.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Corruption

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of the Turks and Caicos Special Investigation and Prosecution Team investigation has been to date. [52082]

Mr Bellingham: The Special Investigation and Prosecution Team has confirmed that the total cost of the investigation up to the end of January 2011 was approximately £4.3 million.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Dominican Republic

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Dominican Republic citizens are resident on the British Overseas Territory of Turks and Caicos. [52074]

Mr Bellingham: The Turks and Caicos Islands Government do not hold this information.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Haiti

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Haitian citizens are resident on the British Overseas Territory of Turks and Caicos. [52075]

Mr Bellingham: The Turks and Caicos Islands Government do not hold this information.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Prisoners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many inmates are detained in Grand Turk Prison, Turks and Caicos. [52080]

Mr Bellingham: On 7 April 2011, the population of Her Majesty's prison in Grand Turk stood at 99; 41 on remand and 58 serving sentences.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Radar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the Coastal Radar System project in Turks and Caicos; and when he expects the project to be completed. [52083]

Mr Bellingham: Considerable progress has been made on the Coastal Radar System project. The tower and antennae have been mounted and testing is imminent.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government expect that installation and testing will be completed in the summer.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Redundancy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Turks and Caicos Government spent on redundancy payouts in each of the last three years. [52084]

Mr Bellingham: Following the closure of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government-sponsored New Media TV channel in November 2009, US$107,467 was paid in terminal benefits. There were no other redundancy payments in this period.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants have been made redundant in Turks and Caicos in each of the last three years. [52085]

Mr Bellingham: 14 staff members of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government-sponsored New Media TV channel were made redundant in November 2009. There were no other civil service redundancies during this period.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Young Offenders

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many juveniles are detained in Grand Turk Prison, Turks and Caicos. [52079]

Mr Bellingham: On 7 April 2011, there were two juveniles in Her Majesty's prison in Grand Turk.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Youth Custody

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provision there is for juvenile detention in Turks and Caicos. [52081]

Mr Bellingham: In general, custodial sentences in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) are usually only given to juveniles who commit very serious offences. In such instances, juveniles are housed in an area of the prison that is isolated from the general population and are monitored by the Department of Social Development. The previous practice had been to send juveniles abroad after sentence.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Safety is seeking funding from the TCI Government and the Governor's Office to establish a juvenile facility in TCI.

UN Convention on Special Missions

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on ratification of the 1969 UN Convention on Special Missions. [51887]

Mr Bellingham: The Government signed the Special Missions Convention on 17 December 1970, but have not yet ratified it. The Government have kept the question of ratification under review, though ratification would entail the passage of primary legislation. However, developments in customary international law regarding special missions and certain high-level official visitors that have been recognised by our courts require that appropriate privileges and immunities are extended to visitors on special missions and other high-level visitors.

USA: Visits

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 961W, on USA: visits, what information his Department holds on the involvement of the embassies of other countries to the United States in facilitating visitor tours of the White House for their nationals. [51499]

Alistair Burt: We understand that all embassies have had to suspend the processing of White House tours while the State Department re-examines the service, with a view to re-opening it in due course using a new request programme and new staff.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 961W on USA: visits, what information he holds on the embassies in Washington, DC that *(a)* do and *(b)* do not offer to process White House tours for their citizens; and in respect of which embassies his Department holds no information. [52233]

Alistair Burt: At the time of the decision to cease the facilitation of White House tours for British nationals in September 2010, our embassy in Washington contacted the embassies of Australia, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa. These embassies confirmed they were not offering facilitation of White House tours. Some state on their own websites that they do not facilitate tours of the White House, and advise visitors to go to the official website of the White House for further information. While no embassy can currently process tours, the Italian and French embassies have informed us that they are waiting for details of the new procedures.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 961W on USA: visits, what information he holds on trends in domestic demand from United States citizens for White House tours. [52234]

Alistair Burt: We do not hold any information on the numbers of US citizens applying for White House tours, or the reasons for the increase. The relevant department in the US Administration is closed while they reorganise their tour request procedures.

Yemen: Entry Clearances

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure the transfer of documentation to alternative visa points in the UAE and Amman following the closure of the visa route for those seeking to regain their documentation from the embassy in Yemen; and if he will make a statement. [52097]

Alistair Burt: Due to the increased threat to our embassy staff the visa section was forced to close in October 2010. There were a number of outstanding visa applications at this time. Consequently, a temporary visa officer was despatched to Sana'a to work through outstanding visa applications. All non-settlement applications were taken to the visa hub in Abu Dhabi for processing. Once decisions were reached, all documentation was couriered either directly to the applicants or via the embassy in Sana'a. Embassy staff in Sana'a notified all applicants of settlement visas, and those whose paperwork was returned to the British embassy in Sana'a, that they should attend the embassy to collect their paperwork and receive full refunds where appropriate. There are no outstanding documents or applications in Sana'a other than those awaiting collection by the applicants.

Visa applicants are responsible for applying to alternative visa points. Yemeni nationals have been able to apply on-line to a number of regional Visa Application Centres (VACs) including Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Cairo and Amman. All visa centres ensure supporting documentation is safely couriered to applicants when the visa process is concluded. If the VACs are unable to deliver visas, passports and other documentation by post, for instance if the address is incomplete, they send them to the British embassy in Sana'a. The applicants are contacted and asked to collect papers. Due to heightened concerns over security, access to the Embassy was not permitted for a period, but this is now possible, and those needing to collect applications have been contacted and informed.

Zimbabwe: British Nationals Abroad

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice on safety and security his Department provides to UK citizens wishing to relocate to Zimbabwe. [51667]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office website hosts the Travel Advice pages, which includes a page for Zimbabwe. The advice is designed to help British travellers make their own decisions, on an informed basis, about travelling abroad, and to help them to avoid trouble by providing information on threats to personal safety arising from political unrest, terrorist activities, lawlessness, violence, natural disasters, epidemics, anti-British demonstrations and aircraft/shipping safety. This advice is regularly updated.

For those without access to the internet the advice can be obtained through our 24/7 Travel Advice call centre on 0845 850 2829.

Our embassy has a website called UK in Zimbabwe which is found at:

www.ukinzimbabwe.fco.gov.uk

This website gives contact details for our embassy in Harare as well as providing a link to our Travel Advice web page.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department has made available to UK citizens resident in Zimbabwe who wish to return to the UK. [51668]

Mr Bellingham: Our consular team at our embassy in Harare are always available to respond to inquiries and have several publications that give advice to those British nationals wishing to move back to the UK:

"Moving to the UK" gives comprehensive advice on everything from employment to healthcare as well as outlining the financial help that may be available on return to the UK.

"Repatriation Advice" outlines generic information on how to access UK social services, welfare benefits and health care. It also gives additional information on more specific areas of interest such as obtaining fit to fly certificates and contact details of airport support agencies.

"Residence in the UK" gives visa advice.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 27 April 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Anaerobic Digestion

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance her Department is providing for the development of farm co-operatives to enable farm-scale anaerobic digestion. [51823]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to increasing energy from waste through anaerobic digestion (AD) to produce, for example, heat, electricity and transport fuels. This work is led by DEFRA, working closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and other Government Departments.

Steps which the Government believes need to be taken to achieve this goal are set out in the AD Framework document, published in November 2010. The project aims to facilitate collaborative work between industry, Government and a wide range of interested parties to identify barriers to the uptake of AD, and key actions that can be taken forward by industry or in partnership.

The project will cover issues relating to all AD models and technologies, which will include on-farm plants and community AD.

An AD strategy document is set to be published in the second quarter of 2011.

Departmental Cleaning Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to require all cleaning contracts held with her Department to stipulate that the cleaning products used should be EU Ecolabel products accredited by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [52372]

Richard Benyon: Our cleaning contractor sources cleaning chemicals which have been chosen with sustainability in mind. The products it uses are also considered under the broader context of sustainability rather than simply whether it has an EU Ecolabel or not. The standard cleaning chemicals are all super concentrate products. These have a number of sustainability benefits including reduced packaging, carbon reduction in deliveries and production and precise dosing capability which minimises wastage and pollution.

Our cleaning contractor continues to consider the Government's minimum buying standards when specifying its cleaning products.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much her Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51419]

Richard Benyon: The following tables show the number of mobile communication' devices issued at the end of fiscal year 2010-11 and how much the Department and its Executive Agencies spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the same period.

The expenditure figures are unaudited as year-end processes in all organisations are still incomplete.

Organisation	*Total devices*	*2010-11 Spend (£)*
DEFRA[1]	1153	527,153.39
VMD	61	13,835.24
CEFAS	234	59,034.00
FERA	586	105,230.93
AH	987	462,373.02
VLA	170	31,000.00
Total	3191	1,198,626.58

[1] Device information is dependent on external supplier data and relates to active connections in March 2011.

RPA	*1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010*	*1 April 2010 - 31 December 2010*
Devices	999	988
Spend (£)	164,257.33	117,219.14

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51397]

Richard Benyon: The departmental spend on recruitment agency fees, outplacement agency fees and staff training for the financial year 2010-11 is set out in the following table.

£

Core DEFRA/ agency	*Recruitment agency fees (incl. media costs where reported)*	*Outplacement agency fees to support displaced/ redundant staff*	*Staff training costs*
Rural Payments Agency (RPA)	0	20,800.00	276,275.49
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture Science (CEFAS)	42,476.54	0	276,586.00
Animal Health/ Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AH/ VLA)	10,980.00	0	[1]1,192,540.00
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)	0	0	68,220.00

£

Core DEFRA/ agency	Recruitment agency fees (incl. media costs where reported)	Outplacement agency fees to support displaced/ redundant staff	Staff training costs
The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera)	16,179.00	0	320,716.00
Core DEFRA	107,942.71	0	1,209,469.00

[1] 2009-10 costs. Staff training costs for AH/VLA will not be available until the end of April 2011

Government Departments: Business Plans

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to publish her Department's sustainability appraisals of departmental business plans. [51824]

Mr Paice: We are currently developing the approach for sustainable development proofing departmental business plans to feed into the refresh of business plans. This includes considering how best to provide updates on progress.

Livestock: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money her Department allocated to each local authority for animal health and welfare work in each of the last three financial years. [52100][1]

Mr Paice: DEFRA funding allocated to each local authority for animal health and welfare work in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table:

	Allocation per financial year (£)		
Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Barnsley	24,474	28,274	23,266
Bath and North East Somerset	60,015	60,015	60,015
Bedford	—	19,338	19,338
Bedfordshire	48,345	—	—
Birmingham	27,815	28,515	27,315
Blackburn with Darwen	6,052	5,465	4,074
Blackpool	385	385	385
Blaenau Gwent	16,841	16,841	16,841
Bolton	12,208	12,208	12,208
Bradford	39,080	41,080	38,080
Bridgend	35,462	35,462	35,462
Buckinghamshire	88,924	88,924	88,924
Bury	2,901	2,901	2,901
Caerphilly	22,521	20,414	20,414
Calderdale	54,699	54,699	54,699
Cambridgeshire	72,975	72,975	72,975
Cardiff	5,103	7,103	7,103
Carmarthenshire	192,297	178,296	192,296
Central Bedfordshire	—	29,007	29,007
Ceredigion	195,113	179,113	195,113
Cheshire (East)	—	56,000	49,930
Cheshire (West and Chester)	—	48,500	48,500
Cheshire	93,080	—	—
City of London (Chelmsford)	10,180	10,180	10,180
City of London (Reigate)	12,673	12,673	12,673
City of London (Reading)	—	—	1,685
City of London (Wokingham and Reading)	10,852	10,852	—
City of York	10,850	10,850	10,850
Conwy	146,284	146,000	146,000
Cornwall	140,389	160,389	140,389
Coventry	4,000	5,000	6,000
Cumbria	290,826	256,342	264,539
Darlington	36,649	36,649	36,647
Denbighshire	136,372	136,372	136,272
Derby City	6,692	5,792	5,792
Derbyshire	199,112	196,543	181,539
Devon	501,678	505,733	500,733
Doncaster	51,456	46,456	46,456
Dorset	109,780	101,885	114,960
Dudley	17,870	17,870	17,870
Durham	81,567	87,567	82,567
East Riding of Yorkshire	209,483	214,483	209,483
East Sussex	53,611	53,611	53,611
Essex	150,996	130,996	150,996
Flintshire	73,930	73,930	73,930
Gateshead	2,018	2,018	2,018
Gloucestershire	196,970	201,190	192,720
Gwynedd	130,937	130,937	130,937
Halton	—	—	1,033
Hampshire	38,108	38,108	38,108
Hartlepool	7,050	4,550	4,550
Havering	2,000	14,000	14,000
Herefordshire	119,768	119,768	114,768
Hertfordshire	26,285	26,285	26,285
Isle of Anglesey	96,018	96,018	82,018
Isle of Wight	34,449	28,949	32,449
Isles of Scilly	—	22,000	22,000
Kent	208,188	206,677	203,170
Kirklees	31,357	33,657	29,640
Lancashire	339,945	339,945	339,945
Leeds	29,049	29,049	29,049
Leicestershire	62,736	62,736	62,671
Lincolnshire	173,691	173,691	173,691
Medway	8,240	8,240	8,240

1.*[Official Report, 17 June 2011, Vol. 529, c. 11-14MC.]*

	Allocation per financial year (£)		
Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Merthyr Tydfil	71,856	66,856	66,856
Middles	936	936	936
Milton Keynes	37,725	18,037	25,089
Monmouthshire including Torfaen	128,705	135,943	155,228
Newcastle	34,920	34,800	33,970
Newport	70,412	38,937	37,873
Norfolk	129,284	129,284	129,284
North Lincolnshire	23,520	23,520	23,520
North Somerset	30,158	30,158	30,158
North Tyneside	12,431	12,431	12,431
North Yorkshire	374,691	404,691	414,691
Northamptonshire	84,872	79,644	79,644
Northumberland	178,377	178,377	178,377
Nottinghamshire	89,433	89,433	89,433
Oldham	52,694	45,428	45,428
Oxfordshire	113,198	112,929	111,629
Pembrokeshire	133,560	133,560	133,560
Peter	9,668	9,668	9,668
Powys	259,260	262,260	253,260
Redcar and Cleveland	4,046	4,046	3,727
Rhondda Cynon Taf	50,659	50,659	50,659
Rochdale	2,885	3,335	3,335
Rotherham	33,188	33,188	33,188
Rutland	10,839	10,839	10,839
St Helens	2,788	—	—
Salford	—	1,494	1,313
Sandwell	6,357	6,357	6,357
Sefton	4,994	4,994	4,994
Sheffield	38,059	42,700	36,169
Shropshire	127,332	131,782	127,320
Slough	—	—	6,000
Solihull	18,113	18,113	18,113
Somerset	234,469	232,469	224,469
South Gloucester	69,309	66,309	66,309
South Tyneside	740	1,200	3,020
Staffordshire	270,467	293,767	268,767
Stockport	—	3,658	5,593
Stockton	13,727	13,727	13,727
Stoke on Trent	8,570	8,570	8,570
Suffolk	120,884	120,884	120,884
Surrey	134,777	132,841	132,841
Swindon	5,242	5,242	5,242
Tameside	630	630	630
Telford and Wrekin	30,618	30,618	30,618
Trafford	—	3,711	3,711
Vale of Glamorgan	23,350	23,350	23,350
Wakefield	32,452	37,764	32,452
Walsall	4,401	4,401	4,401
Warrington	9,491	9,491	9,491
Warwickshire	127,828	132,000	131,000
West Berkshire and Wokingham	—	—	27,061
West Berkshire	27,061	27,061	—
West Glamorgan	65,356	65,356	64,416
West Sussex	46,743	44,743	44,743
Wigan	8,000	6,087	6,087
Wiltshire	60,912	60,912	60,912
Windsor and Maidenhead	38,117	34,542	34,542
Wirral	473	2,008	2,008
Wokingham	—	—	9,167
Wolverhampton	3,934	3,934	3,873
Worcestershire	215,909	202,709	180,630
Wrexham	57,208	57,208	57,208

Source:
Core DEFRA

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of domesticated animals and birds slaughtered without prior stunning in 2010. [51899]

Mr Paice: The most recent data on the slaughter of animals without prior stunning was published in March 2004 by the Meat Hygiene Service in its Animal Welfare Review. The data were collected through a survey of meat plants between 1 and 7 September 2003. The following table shows the number of animals killed over that period without prior stunning for the production of kosher and halal meat:

Species	*Not stunned*
Cattle	365
Calves	8
Young lambs	6,845
Other sheep	11,454
Goats	62
Broilers	167,745
Hens	15,900
Turkeys	749
Ducks	610

More recent data collected by the EU Dialrel project see:

http://www.dialrel.eu/images/factsheet-assesment-practices.pdf

show that, of the UK abattoirs surveyed, 100% of the animals and birds slaughtered for the production of kosher meat were slaughtered without prior stunning. For halal meat, 25% of cattle and 7% of sheep were slaughtered without prior stunning. The Dialrel data also indicate that no poultry were slaughtered for halal production without stunning.

Pesticides

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanism she has put in place to monitor the export to developing countries of chemical pesticides produced in the UK. [52328]

Mr Paice: Monitoring of the export to the developing world of certain dangerous chemicals (including pesticides) is focused on those that pose the greatest concern with regard to human health risk or environmental contamination.

Under Regulation EC 689/2008, exporters of these chemicals are required to share information on how to store, transport, use and dispose of them safely. In addition, they are required to notify or seek consent from importing countries outside of the EU before their first export each year. This enables importing countries to make informed decisions about the import and appropriate management of these chemicals. This process is operated by the Health and Safety Executive on behalf of the UK.

Exporters are also required to declare the total quantity of each notified chemical they have exported to each country, a summary of which is published by the European Commission.

In addition Regulation EC 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market which will come into operation on 14 June will introduce a statutory requirement for record keeping by all companies exporting plant protection products.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what mechanism her Department has put in place to measure the level of pesticide residue in imported food and drink; [52329]

(2) how many incidents of foodstuff contamination with pesticides were detected in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [52330]

Mr Paice: The UK carries out an annual programme to monitor pesticide residues in food and drink. The purpose of the programme is to support the statutory approvals process for pesticides by checking that no unexpected residues are occurring; check that residues do not go above statutory maximum residue levels (MRL); and check that the residues in food and drink are within acceptable levels. The sampling is reflective of the food supply chain and in particular the places where people buy food.

This monitoring programme and its results have been overseen by the independent Pesticide Residues Committee from 2000 to 31 March 2011. From 1 April this Committee has been replaced by an Expert Committee of DEFRA, which will carry out the same role of providing scientific and technical advice. The results of the monitoring programme, including full details of the brand-name and manufacturer of each sample taken, and the detailed risk assessments considered by the Committee, are published in quarterly reports. The Committee also publishes an annual report summarising each year's work and giving information on those samples where residues were found above the MRL and on follow-up action taken. These reports are available on the Committee's website.

The monitoring programme indicates that pesticide residues in food are almost always within the MRL limits. These are not safety limits but are set under EC regulation to represent the largest amount of pesticide expected to be found in a crop when it has been treated in accordance with good agricultural practice. Where residues are found, case by case assessment demonstrates that the vast majority involve no risk to consumers. For 2009 (the most recent full year of data), out of 3,835 samples tested 42 (1.1%) contained a residue exceeding the relevant MRL. Seven samples contained residues that could be a risk to health. These were notified to the Food Standards Agency which took action to inform the European Commission under the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

It can be misleading to make simple comparisons of the annual survey results as different foods are tested each year, analytical capability increases over time (so more pesticides can be tested for at lower levels), and the statutory MRLs change to reflect changing agricultural practice.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* number of full-time equivalent staff of her Department and its public bodies responsible for monitoring the levels of pesticides in the foodchain (i) was in each of the last 10 years and (ii) will be in each of the next five years. [52331]

Mr Paice: The information is as follows:

(a) The national programme of pesticide residue testing in food in the UK is administered by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive. Expenditure on this work is published each year in the annual report of the Pesticide Residues Committee, which advises Ministers on the design and implementation of the programme. This information is summarised as follows. Costs include sample collection, analysis, collation and reporting of results. A further £30,000 is spent each year on the administration of the Pesticide Residues Committee.

Programme year	*Cost (£ million)*[1]
2000	1.7
2001	2.0
2002	2.0
2003	2.2
2004	2.2
2005	2.2
2006	2.1
2007	2.1
2008	2.1
2009	2.1
2010	1.9

[1] These expenditure figures include a proportion of analytical costs which are met by the devolved Administrations.

(b) Staffing in the team managing this work has been between 3.5 and 4 full-time equivalent staff throughout the period.

The budget for 2011 for this work will be similar to the 2010 level. Beyond 2012 the budgetary position is not finalised but expenditure will be in line with spending review commitments.

Recycling

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the national roll-out of *(a)* Recyclebank and *(b)* other recycling reward schemes. [51825]

Richard Benyon: This Government believes in rewards, rather than penalties, to encourage recycling and other beneficial behaviours. As part of the Waste Policy Review we are looking at how we can support councils to reward householders for recycling. A number of local authorities have entered into contracts with Recyclebank to provide rewards for recycling, and we support them taking this initiative. It is for individual local authorities to decide whether a reward scheme is appropriate in their area and what type it should be.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Gardens

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister whether his Office has taken steps to ensure biodiversity and protection for rare and endangered flora and fauna in the Downing Street gardens. [52321]

The Prime Minister: The gardens of Nos. 10, 11, and 12 Downing Street are maintained by The Royal Parks. Biodiversity is supported in the Downing Street gardens through a range of horticultural regimes and practices, including the provision of a pond, borders to support wildlife, and nesting boxes for birds and insects.

Supermarkets

Alison McGovern: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has had any meetings since September 2010 with representatives of *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* Sainsbury's, *(c)* Asda, *(d)* Morrisons and *(e)* trade associations of which these companies are members. [52208]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations which is published on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the new ministerial code. This is available on the No. 10 website:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/who.php

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost per flying hour of using *(a)* Tornado and *(b)* Harrier aircraft for operations in Afghanistan. [52545]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend Lord Astor of Hever, to Lord Moonie, in another place on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column WA106.

Armed Forces: Allowances

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military allowances for members of the armed services he proposes to reduce. [53038]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-47WS.

Armed Forces: Germany

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to the German government on each occasion since 1981 that British forces stationed in Germany were returned to the UK. [52005]

Nick Harvey: Information is only available as far back as 1989.

Since 1989 the total sum paid out to Federal Republic of Germany in this regard has been €332,126.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the future of the continuity of education allowance for children of armed forces personnel. [52837]

Nick Harvey: Continuity of education allowance continues to be available to all ranks of the armed forces. However, I am in the process of carrying out a review to consider the fundamental rationale for the allowance, and look at alternatives and the justification for the current set of entitlements.

The review involves consultation with the service community and families federations. Its conclusions will be announced later this year.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effects the redundancies in the armed forces announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will have on standing commitments. [52426]

Dr Fox: Armed forces redundancies will have no impact on the services' ability to meet their standing commitments.

Our standing commitments were re-evaluated during the Strategic Defence and Security Review and we determined they fell into two categories: non-discretionary and discretionary. We have therefore ensured that as we build to our new force structure in 2020 we will retain the capabilities we need to meet fully the non-discretionary elements of our standing commitments over the next 10 years. While we do not currently envisage altering the tasking of those capabilities that are at present conducting discretionary standing commitments it does mean that, should we need to, we have the flexibility in the force structure to do so.

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward legislation to prevent enlistment of recruits into the armed forces until after their 18th birthday. [52875]

Mr Robathan: No. We take pride in the fact that our armed forces provide challenging and constructive education, training and employment opportunities for young people, equipping them with valuable and transferable skills.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* emotional and *(b)* physical risks to the wellbeing of those under the age of 18 who are recruited to the armed forces. [52877]

Mr Robathan: There are widely promulgated guidelines and procedures specifically covering the care and welfare of under 18s, to ensure that personnel are aware of best practice and include a mentoring regime for new arrivals. The chain of command provides a key role in the welfare of all personnel, and there is a comprehensive welfare system which includes chaplains, the soldiers, sailors, airmen and families association or service welfare organisations, and unit welfare officers. Personnel are also provided with links to single service or civilian helplines.

In accordance with defence policy, no service personnel under the age of 18 are deployed on any operation, outside the United Kingdom, which would result in them becoming engaged in, or exposed, to hostilities. Similarly, in line with United Nations (UN) policy, service personnel under 18 are not deployed on UN peacekeeping operations.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in identifying the non-frontline savings set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and if he will make a statement. [52422]

Dr Fox: We have made good progress in identifying how best to deliver the non-frontline savings set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review in the course of a recent Planning Round. However, there remains further work to drive some of the detailed implementation. This will be actively monitored by the Defence Operating Board (Transformation) including working with the relevant senior responsible owners for these measures to ensure that they are delivered.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether further savings in his Department's budget in addition to those identified in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will need to be identified up to 2015-16. [52423]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence has always been clear that the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) was the start of a process and that there were still difficult decisions that would need to be taken as it was implemented as a result of the situation inherited from the previous Labour Government. We will also need to ensure that for usual budgetary purposes—due to changes such as fuel prices, foreign exchange, inflation, changes in valuations in our estate, and armed forces pay awards—that we match our resources to our highest priorities. This we do on an annual basis utilising the Department's Planning Round process. I will make a statement to the House on the progress of implementing the SDSR and the Department's finances shortly.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on Planning Round 11; and if he will make a statement. [52424]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 69W.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* the US Administration and *(b)* the Governments of other countries forming the coalition for military action in Libya on policy on the use of depleted uranium weapons; and how that policy (A) is applied to and (B) will apply in operations in Libya. [52204]

Nick Harvey: The UK is not using depleted uranium weapons in Libya.

No discussions have been had with counterparts in the US Administration and the Governments of other countries forming the coalition supporting United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 (2011) on policy on the use of depleted uranium weapons.

Nuclear Weapons: International Co-operation

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with their counterparts in continental European national governments on co-operation in nuclear policy; and if he will make a statement. [52007]

Nick Harvey: The UK operates an independent nuclear deterrent and the policy underpinning this remains sovereign to the UK. Engagement with our counterparts in continental Europe on co-operation on nuclear policy is therefore mainly via discussions within NATO which is currently undertaking a defence and deterrence posture review tasked by the Lisbon summit in November 2010. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments and I am therefore withholding further details as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the UK and other states.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken by his Department following its report, SDSR: Lessons Identified; and if he will make a statement. [52425]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 569W.

Warships

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to review his decision to place one landing platform dock in reserve in light of recent events in North Africa and the Middle East. [51122]

Nick Harvey: We have no plans to do so. As set out in the White Paper: "Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The Strategic Defence and Security Review", Cm 7948, we plan in future to be able to land and sustain a command group of up to 1,800 personnel from the sea using specialist shipping. To meet this requirement, we need to maintain at high readiness just one of our two landing platforms docks. The second ship will be held at extended readiness.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Stress

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of levels of *(a)* stress and *(b)* fatigue experienced by airline pilots on standby duty. [51692]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 51W, given to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham).

Aviation: Working Hours

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the issue of flight time limitations for pilots was discussed at the Transport Council on 31 March. [51706]

Mrs Villiers: The issue of flight time limitations was not discussed at the Transport Council of 31 March.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on flight time limitations. [51710]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 673W, given to the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon).

Blue Badge Scheme: Logos

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of changing the design of the blue disability badge so that all required information is displayed on one side of the badge. [52315]

Norman Baker: The design of the blue badge follows the European parking model which is set out in EC Council Recommendation (98/376/EC). This details the information that should be placed on the front and the back of a badge. The information that is included on the back is personal and many blue badge users do not want this on display, including overnight in some parking bays, for personal security reasons. The badge clearly indicates the side that should be displayed in the vehicle.

I plan shortly to bring forward legislative amendments to the badge design to make it harder to copy and to forge. One of these amendments will require the badge number and the expiry date to be included on both sides of the badge. This will enable enforcement officers to check the validity of badges no matter which side of the badge is on display.

Brighton and Hove City Council: Grants

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department were available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; how much was available in such grants; how many such grants were made; and how much was awarded in such grants. [51846]

Norman Baker: Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, the Department for Transport had a number of grant streams available to local government. Some of these were allocated by formula and were not ring-fenced. Others were granted on the basis of bids from local government. Details of the grants which Brighton and Hove city council could bid for are outlined as follows:

Table 1: 2007-08 Local transport bid-based funding (£ million)

Grant	Brighton and Hove allocation	Total funding
Bikeability	0.0	1.2
Bus Challenge and Kickstart	0.0	12.0
Cycle Towns	0.6	3.2
Exceptional Maintenance	0.0	8.0
Major Schemes[1]	0.0	257.0
Road Safety Partnership[2]	0.8	5.6
Total	1.4	287.0

Table 2: 2008-09 Local transport bid-based funding (£ million)

Grant	Brighton and Hove allocation	Total funding
Bikeability	0.1	3.1
Bus Challenge and Kickstart	0.0	5.7
Cycle Towns	0.4	9.6
Exceptional Maintenance	0.0	13.0
Major Schemes[1]	0.0	409.0
Road Safety Partnership[2]	0.0	2.2
TIF Pump Priming	0.0	16.1
Total	0.5	458.7

Table 3: 2009-10 Local transport bid-based funding (£ million)

Grant	Brighton and Hove allocation	Total funding
Bikeability[3]	0.1	5.0
Bus Challenge and Kickstart	0.0	5.9
Cycle Towns	0.9	26.8
Exceptional Maintenance	0.0	5.0

Table 3: 2009-10 Local transport bid-based funding (£ million)

Grant	Brighton and Hove allocation	Total funding
Green Bus Fund	0.0	5.3
Major Schemes[1]	0.0	601.0
Road Safety Partnership[2]	0.0	4.1
TIF Pump Priming	0.0	2.7
Total	1.0	655.8

Table 4: 2010-11 Local transport bid-based funding (£ million)

Grant	Brighton and Hove allocation	Total funding
Bikeability[3]	0.1	6.1
Cycle Towns	0.5	19.2
Exceptional Maintenance	0.0	5.0
Green Bus Fund	0.0	14.4
Major Schemes[1]	0.0	531.0
Road Safety Partnership[2]	0.0	0.9
Winter Emergency Repairs	0.4	200.0
Total	1.0	776.6

[1] In the years in question eligibility to claim major scheme funding was restricted to schemes that (a) had been prioritised in their region's regional funding allocation and (b) had achieved Full Approval status as defined by the major schemes guidance in operation at the time. The only scheme in Brighton and Hove that was prioritised in the South East Regional funding allocation was the Brighton Rapid Transit scheme, but this never reached full approval status and therefore no funds were provided.

[2] Many Road Safety Partnership projects lasted for two financial years—the figures are for the first year for which projects were approved. The figures are for the maximum approved QfT funding contribution. Some actual claims were less. Totals include some projects led by non-Government Organisations, rather than local authorities.

[3] The Bikeabilily funding provided to Brighton and Hove in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was for local authority and School Sports Partnership delivery.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department are available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in 2011-12; how much is available in such grants; how many such grants have been made; and how much is to be awarded in such grants in the next 12 months. [51849]

Norman Baker: To support the localism agenda, the Department for Transport has radically simplified and reformed local transport funding, moving from 26 grant streams to just four from 2011-12:

> capital grants for (i) highways maintenance and (ii) integrated transport, both of which are allocated by formula to all local highway authorities and are not ring-fenced;
>
> additional funding for specific transport projects based on bids to (iii) Local Sustainable Transport Fund and (iv) local authority Major Schemes programme. Total budgets for 2011-12 for these two grants are £80 million and £418 million respectively. Decisions on award amounts, including to Brighton and Hove city council, are dependent on the on-going bidding processes.

All other specific grants have ended, with the funding transferred and included in the main Local Government Formula Grant administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [51990]

Norman Baker: There have been no ministerial directions issued since the Secretary of State's appointment.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the abolition of the Railway Heritage Committee. [48685]

Mrs Villiers: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 89W.

Driving Offences: Fines

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue was raised from fines as a consequence of drivers failing to meet the requirement to display blue badges correctly under the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 in *(a)* Bolton, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* England in each of the last three years. [52313]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not collect these data and so the information is not available. Enforcement of the Blue Badge scheme is the responsibility of the local authority in cases where they have taken civil parking enforcement powers or, in other cases, the police or traffic wardens.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure the collection of fines for speeding in the UK incurred by citizens of other EU member states. [52282]

Mike Penning: Foreign registered vehicles can already be stopped by police and issued with up to three fixed penalty points. If the driver cannot demonstrate a satisfactory UK address, police officers will take a summons deposit. Money taken for summons deposits is held pending the court hearing and either paid as the fine or refunded, based on the outcome of the hearing. If the driver does not appear at the court hearing, the money is retained and the driver has no further right to appeal.

Our plans to improve the collection of fines incurred by citizens of other EU member states for speeding in the UK will be covered in our strategic framework for road safety, which will be published shortly.

East Coast Railway Line: Timetables

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason publication of the May 2011 timetable for East Coast trains was delayed; and if he will make a statement. [51967]

Mrs Villiers: Publication of the May 2011 timetable for East Coast trains has not been delayed. The timetable was published on East Coast's website on 14 February 2011, in accordance with the industry's normal timescales for publication of new timetables.

Freedom Pass

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he plans to issue revised guidance on the Freedom Pass scheme for disabled people in respect of eligibility for those who apply who have been refused a driving licence under section 92 of the Road Traffic Act 1988; [52396]

(2) when he proposes to issue renewed guidance to local authorities on determining eligibility for the Disabled Persons Freedom Pass; [52397]

(3) whether he plans to *(a)* review and *(b)* alter the eligibility for the Disabled Persons Freedom Pass; [52398]

(4) if he will issue guidance to local authorities on eligibility on discretionary grounds for the Disabled Persons Freedom Pass. [52399]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport issued guidance to Travel Concession Authorities in 2008 regarding the assessment of applicants for a disabled person's England-wide travel concession pass. The guidance is due to be reviewed in the future to ensure that it continues to be useful to local authorities in assessing applicants against the disability eligibility criteria defined in legislation. However, there are no plans to revise any of the disability eligibility criteria themselves.

Disability eligibility criteria relating to the Discretionary London-only Disabled Persons Pass are a matter for the London boroughs.

Great Western Railway: Electrification

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of rail service connectivity of not electrifying the Great Western Main Line between Cardiff and Swansea. [45242]

Mrs Villiers: Electrification from London to Cardiff and deployment of the new train fleet on the Great Western line will increase connectivity for stations between Cardiff and Swansea because passengers will benefit from more seats and faster journeys.

Through trains to London will continue and they will be 20 minutes quicker from December 2017 with a journey time from Swansea of two hours and 39 minutes. This significant improvement to the area's transport infrastructure should enhance the attractiveness of Swansea and the rest of South Wales for inward investment.

No additional connectivity benefits for main line rail services would be gained by the electrification of the South Wales Main Line from Cardiff to Swansea.

High Speed 2: Exhibitions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what expenditure his Department is incurring on *(a)* the High Speed 2 caravan being used for the HS2 Consultation mobile roadshows and *(b)* the equipment being used for the HS2 Consultation exhibitions; and whether the (i) caravan and (ii) equipment has been (A) purchased or (B) leased; [51894]

(2) what the cost to his Department is of the *(a)* computer programs, *(b)* interaction maps, *(c)* sound booths, *(d)* noise simulation recordings and *(e)* exhibition furniture in use at the HS2 mobile exhibitions and roadshows; and which companies have been awarded contracts to provide such goods. [51897]

Mr Philip Hammond: Some work is still ongoing, but we estimate that the total expenditure on the consultation events and associated equipment to be £1.1 million. This sum reflects our commitment to provide good quality advice to the public regarding the proposals. The mobile exhibition vehicle is owned by HS2 Ltd.

Central office of Information (CoI) were contracted by HS2 Ltd to award the contracts for companies which provided these goods. Noise simulation recordings are being undertaken by Arup and there are no final costs as yet due to the ongoing nature of the work.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many HS2 Consultation feedback forms were completed at the Euston HS2 mobile exhibition on 24 March 2011; and whether such statistics will be published each week during the HS2 consultation period; [51895]

(2) what steps he is taking to capture and record oral feedback provided to his Department and HS2 staff by visitors to the HS2 mobile exhibitions and roadshows. [51896]

Mr Philip Hammond: The purpose of the roadshows is to provide people with information about the proposals to inform consultation responses. They are able to submit forms electronically or in writing at the event, or they can submit responses via the consultation website after the event. We do not propose to publish information on the number of forms received at each event weekly; however, a summary of responses received will be published after the consultation closes. Oral feedback from visitors is not being recorded.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who the employers are of each member of staff working on the HS2 mobile exhibitions and roadshows. [52010]

Mr Philip Hammond: The mobile exhibitions and roadshows are being undertaken by HS2 Ltd in support of the current high speed rail consultation exercise, with support from the Department for Transport. As such, the majority of staff at the events are directly employed by these organisations. Further specialist engineering support is provided by Temple and Arup, who are engaged as consultants.

Large Goods Vehicles: Licensing

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to harmonisation of the requirements for the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence with those for a Large Goods Vehicle licence; and if he will make a statement. [51695]

Mike Penning: The Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC) was introduced in UK in September 2008 for bus and coach drivers and September 2009 for lorry drivers. Following public consultation in 2005, a modular qualification approach enabling new drivers to obtain their driving licence and DCPC as part of the same process was adopted to allow maximum flexibility for those caught by the new requirements. This effectively harmonised the requirements of licence acquisition driver testing with the requirements for DCPC.

Railways: Standards

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve the *(a)* reliability and *(b)* capacity of the UK's existing rail network. [49709]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 29 March 2011]:* We are continuing to invest across the UK rail network, with around £14 billion planned to be spent within this spending review period to 2014-15 to enlarge capacity and improve performance.

We will provide 650 additional carriages by 2014 to meet the rising peak demand in our major cities and on our long distance routes. Platforms are already being lengthened and stations enhanced for this. We will electrify routes in the North West and the Great Western Main Line to Cardiff by 2017 and expect to buy new Intercity Express Trains for the latter and for the East Coast Main Line. We are going ahead with the Crossrail and Thameslink projects which will provide substantial extra capacity into London from all four points of the compass by 2019. Only last month the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a further £200 million for railway improvements in the regions including the Ordsall Chord in Manchester and the redoubling of the Swindon-Kemble route in the south-west.

However, the single biggest contributor of additional capacity to the rail network would be the proposed High Speed 2 network which would transform capacity between Britain's major cities, providing approximately 230,000 seats per day on the new line in Phase 1, rising to more than 500,000 seats per day once the second phase to Manchester and Leeds is operational, as well as releasing capacity for regional, commuter and freight services on existing lines.

Roads: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many (1) casualties were recorded in road traffic accidents in *(a)* St Albans constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [52116]

(2) pedestrians were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in St Albans constituency in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [52117]

Mike Penning: The information requested is given in the following tables:

Reported casualties from personal injury road accidents in (a) St Albans constituency and (b) Hertfordshire: 2007 to 2009

	(a) St Albans	*(b) Hertfordshire*
2007	512	5,128
2008	499	4,384
2009	428	3,956

Note:
Based on the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Reported pedestrian casualties from personal injury road accidents in St Albans constituency[1] who were (a) injured (b) killed: 2007 to 2009

	(a) Injured	(b) Killed
2007	38	1
2008	44	1
2009	36	1

[1] Based on the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

The data for year 2010 will be published at the end of June 2011.

Rolling Stock

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions in respect of *(a)* specifications and *(b)* costs were made in his Department's comparison between the electric multiple unit and locomotive electric trains and bi-mode intercity express programme trains; and what the source of such assumptions was. [51690]

Mrs Villiers: The specification, frequency and stopping patterns of the trains were assumed to be the same for both the coupling and the bi-mode options.

The costs and benefits of the two options differ, and it was the differences in costs and benefits that provided the basis for the decision to go ahead with the bi-mode option. I would also refer the hon. Member to my answers of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 786-87W and 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 877W, where I outlined some of the costs and the sources.

Thames Gateway Bridge

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on revenue at the Dartford River Crossing of constructing a lower Thames crossing; and if he will make a statement. [52136]

Mike Penning: No specific assessment has been made as yet on the effects on revenue at the existing Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing from the construction of a new lower Thames crossing.

The Department for Transport made clear in its Spending Review announcement that it would embark on a review of the options for future capacity in the lower Thames.

Following that review, which is expected to take around 12 to 18 months to complete, the Department's intention, as part of the statutory process, would be to publicly consult on the merits of the potential options.

Thameslink Railway Line

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on the Thameslink Programme. [52126]

Mrs Villiers: Good progress has been made on the Thameslink Programme including:

1. Installation of 140 metres of pre-fabricated platform extensions at Elstree and Borehamwood station in one weekend in March;
2. Commencement of construction of train sidings and platform extensions at Bedford;
3. Completion of the major track switch from the west side of Blackfriars station to the east side at Christmas 2010, and commencement of the reconstruction and widening of the west side; and
4. Erection of 400 tonnes of steelwork for the new ticket hall at Farringdon to be shared with Crossrail.

Transport: Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to mitigate carbon usage in transport. [51758]

Norman Baker: The Government are committed to ensuring that the transport sector plays a full part in delivering the emissions reductions needed to meet our 2020 and 2050 climate change targets. On 8 March we published a draft "Carbon Plan", which summarises ongoing and planned action to reduce carbon emissions from all sectors, including transport. The "Carbon Plan" can be found via the website of the Department of Energy and Climate Change at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/carbon_plan/carbon_plan.aspx

Travel: Concessions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to provide more affordable access to public transport for 17 to 25-year-olds affected by rising motor insurance premiums. [51095]

Norman Baker: For rail travel, young people are already eligible for a 16-25 Railcard if aged between 16 and 25, or if aged 26 and over and in full-time education. This is a requirement of each operator's franchise agreement.

In London, all 16 to 17-year-olds can pay child rate for Travelcards longer than seven days and pay half the adult rate when using 'pay as you go' on buses, trams, Tube, DLR and London overground services. Students aged 18 or over receive a 30% discount on Travelcards longer than seven days and up to an annual Travelcard.

Outside London, the majority of bus fares are set by commercial operators in a deregulated market. Many operators offer reduced fares and discounted tickets to encourage young people to use local bus services, often in partnership with local councils. Any decision on the provision of local discretionary concessions for young people in a particular area, or for the price of tickets on services they financially support, is for an individual local transport authority. Local transport authorities outside London also have powers to make ticketing schemes or set maximum fares through statutory bus Quality Partnership Schemes.

On 28 March the Secretary of State for Education announced a new £180 million 16-19 Bursary Fund that, from September 2011, will enable schools and colleges to target support to those young people facing the greatest financial barriers to participation. The new scheme will have the flexibility to allow for transport costs where schools and colleges identify this as a barrier to individual students' participation.

I recognise that the rising cost of motor insurance is a problem to young people. We are working with the motor insurance industry to identify ways in which we can develop insurance products which offer incentives to those young drivers who may be willing accept restrictions or take additional training.

HEALTH

Asbestos

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in disbursing the funding allocated for research into asbestos-related diseases his Department announced in 2010. [51755]

Mr Simon Burns: No specific funding was allocated for research into asbestos-related diseases. The Department of Health funds research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Department's Policy Research programme. The Department's funding for Research and Development will increase in real terms over the next four years, from £1,004 million in 2011-12 to £1,089 million in 2014-15. The NIHR welcomes applications for support for research into any aspect of human health, including mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity.

The NIHR is working with the British Lung Foundation on building capacity for research on asbestos-related diseases.

Babies: Bottles

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the proposed EU prohibition on the use of bisphenol A in babies' feeding bottles; and for what reason the UK abstained in the vote in the Council of Ministers on the adoption of Directive 2011/8/EU. [52295]

Anne Milton: Commission directive 2011/8/EU was implemented in the United Kingdom by the Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/231) and separate, equivalent, regulations relating to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The UK abstained in the vote in EU Standing Committee on 25 November 2010 as the European Commission circulated its formal proposal to member states late on 23 November 2010 and there was insufficient time for parliamentary scrutiny of the proposal before the vote.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [51994]

Mr Simon Burns: No directions have been issued to the Department's accounting officers since the Secretary of State's appointment.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on first-class rail travel for journeys by Ministers and officials in his Department between London and Leeds since his appointment. [52418]

Mr Simon Burns: During the period May 2010 to March 2011 the Department spent £268,934 on first-class rail travel between London and Leeds, using tickets purchased through the Department's central travel contract.

Ministers have not used first-class travel between London and Leeds during this time.

Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with type 1 diabetes were presented as emergency hospital admissions with diabetic ketoacidosis in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [51786]

Paul Burstow: The table shows the number of emergency finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was type 1 diabetes with ketoacidosis by selected age groups in England 2005-06 to 2009-10. Individuals may have been admitted on more than one occasion each year.

	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
17 and under	3,174	3,229	3,202	3,167	2,960
18 and over	8,092	7,913	7,677	7,023	6,465
Unknown age	16	9	6	6	8
Total	11,282	11,151	10,885	10,196	9,433

Drugs: Side Effects

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of adverse reactions from medicines administered in NHS facilities in each of the last four years. [51715]

Mr Simon Burns: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme, the Yellow Card Scheme. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of UK spontaneous 'suspected' ADR reports received by the MHRA during the last four years.

	Number of reports
2007	21,716
2008	25,636
2009	22,439
2010	23,247

These data represent all UK spontaneous 'suspected' ADR reports received through the Yellow Card Scheme and reports from the pharmaceutical industry. These reports do not usually state where the medicine was administered.

It is important to note that the reporting of a suspected adverse reaction does not necessarily mean it is related to the drug. The reports are 'suspicions' of adverse drug reactions and have not been proven. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease being treated.

Fertility: Health Services

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* NHS Sutton and Merton and *(b)* other primary care trusts do not reduce funding for tertiary infertility services where these are provided at levels at or below guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [51771]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are well aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers.

The NHS deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to PCT commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight the importance that those involved in commissioning fertility services have regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39. The communication has been placed in the Library.

The Department also supports Infertility Network UK, the leading fertility patient organisation, to work in partnership with PCTs to encourage good practice in the provision of fertility services. This work is ongoing.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which bodies are to be responsible for commissioning fertility treatment under his proposals for NHS reform. [51830]

Mr Simon Burns: Responsibility for the commissioning of national health service infertility services has not yet been agreed.

HIV Infection: Tuberculosis

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with HIV-related tuberculosis in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Brighton and

Hove primary care trust area and *(c)* East Sussex Downs and Weald primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [51630]

Anne Milton: The latest information available is shown in the following table:

Three year average number and proportion of tuberculosis patients aged 15 and over co-infected with HIV, 2006 to 2008

	2006-08 average	
	Number	*Proportion (percentage)*
England	560	7.5
Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust	6	17.6
East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust	<5	Approx 10

Notes:

1. Matching is carried out retrospectively because of delay in reporting of cases and data are, therefore, available up to 2008 at present.
2. As there are only small numbers of cases in each of the primary care trusts (PCTs), three-year average numbers have been provided.
3. This figure does not include cases of co-infection in children because HIV in children is reported separately.
4. Numbers less than five are not shown because of possibility of deductive disclosure. Because of small number of cases by PCT we only provide three-year average numbers.

Source:

Health Protection Agency.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of collaborative tuberculosis and HIV services to reducing rates of co-infection; [51631]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that relevant commissioning expertise will be available for the provision of integrated tuberculosis and HIV services by GP consortia under his proposed new structures for the NHS. [51632]

Anne Milton: On 21 December 2010, we published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

The aim of this consultation, which closed on 31 March 2011, was to ensure the Department gets details of the new public health system right in order to deliver significant improvements to the health of the population.

The document proposed that the NHS Commissioning Board will commission HIV treatment and that the national health service will continue to fund and commission infectious disease treatment including tuberculosis (TB) treatment. The NHS Commissioning Board will have a leadership role in providing commissioning guidance for general practitioner consortia based on quality standards and by designing tariffs and model NHS contracts.

We need to read and analyse the consultation responses carefully, and consider whether changes need to be made to our proposals. We will work to clarify the detail of how this would be implemented in practice, including how to ensure the relevant expertise informs the commissioning of integrated HIV and TB services. It is important that all concerned work together to ensure that tuberculosis and HIV services are commissioned and delivered in a way that meets local need and reduces rates of co-infection.

A response to the consultation will be published in the summer.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis points were allocated to price in the human papillomavirus vaccine tender criteria; according to what criteria the effects of price were calculated; and how price affected the total points score allocated to each vaccine. [51195]

Anne Milton: In order to select which human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to purchase and use, the Department follows Europe Union procurement legislation and uses a rigorous process for the selection based on cost-effectiveness analysis.

The methodology used was published in the British Medical Journal in July 2008:

www.bmj.com/content/337/bmj.a769.full

A copy of the criteria used in the adjudication has been placed in the Library.

The criteria were shared with the manufacturers during the process so that they were fully informed of the criteria against which their bids would be evaluated.

Learning Disability: Social Services

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of his Department's Skills for Care funding allocation for 2011-12 will target adult social care staff supporting people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [52017]

Paul Burstow: In 2011-12, the Department is providing approximately £27.5 million funding to Skills for Care for the training and development of the adult social care workforce. This includes £13 million for the Training Strategy Implementation grant, which Skills for Care administer on the Department's behalf. The grant provides funding to employers in the private and voluntary sectors to upskill their existing workforce. This is a generic grant and will support the improvement of skills across the sector including those staff who support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Mental Health Services: Complaints

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements there are on mental health trusts regarding mechanisms for dealing with complaints raised by members of the public. [51902]

Mr Simon Burns: The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 provides the framework within which all providers and commissioners of NHS services (including mental health trusts) must operate. This framework includes the handling, investigation and the response to the complainant.

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements there are on mental health trusts in respect of the time taken to respond to complaints made by members of the public. [51903]

Mr Simon Burns: The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 do not specify time-scales for handling individual complaints. The body receiving the complaint must offer to discuss with the complainant:

> the period within which the investigation of the complaint is likely to be completed; and
>
> the period within which the response is likely to be sent to the complainant.

During the investigation, the organisation receiving the complaint must keep the complainant informed, as far as reasonably practicable, as to the progress of the investigation.

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints each mental health trust in England received in each of the last five years. [51904]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the total number of complaints received by mental health trusts in England in each of the last five years.

Hospital and community health services: written complaints by mental health organisation; England as at 1 April to 31 March each year

		2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England		95,047	90,801	87,080	89,139	101,077
Of which:						
All mental health organisations		7,913	8,222	7,260	7,226	9,617
2Gether NHS Foundation Trust	RTQ	81	71	89	51	n/a
5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RTV	121	138	133	124	140
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	RVN	217	212	217	204	233
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	RRP	230	233	196	184	212
Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health And Social Care	RV7	84	114	98	45	74
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	RWX	121	123	n/a	96	82
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	RXT	341	333	241	295	257
Bradford District Care Trust	TAD	175	76	52	62	76
Calderstones Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RJX	68	70	76	87	136
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust	RT1	43	49	63	n/a	n/a
Camden and Islington Foundation Trust	TAF	190	174	153	n/a	n/a
Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	RV3	182	228	206	206	194
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RXA	69	62	n/a	58	46
Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RJ8	146	195	119	86	173
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	RYG	*	111	86	101	118
Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RNN	44	46	38	66	61
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	RXM	86	110	111	93	373
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	RWV	98	107	135	120	391
Dorset Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	RDY	101	55	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	RYK	*	*	*	66	139
East London NHS Foundation Trust	RWK	225	152	252	255	230
Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	RXV	62	78	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RW1	108	125	142	99	195

Hospital and community health services: written complaints by mental health organisation; England as at 1 April to 31 March each year

		2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RWR	93	97	n/a	137	204
Humber NHS Foundation Trust	RV9	34	35	44	87	76
Kent and Medway NHS And Social Care Partnership Trust	RXY	*	260	194	149	194
Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust	RW5	395	399	249	243	174
Leeds Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RGD	114	103	98	92	56
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	RT5	187	287	229	230	223
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RP7	97	80	95	79	166
Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust	TAE	159	190	141	140	149
Mersey Care NHS Trust	RW4	498	408	249	406	342
Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	RMY	18	17	28	18	320
North East London NHS Foundation Trust	RAT	140	118	112	n/a	58
North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RRD	127	122	106	81	400
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	RLY	68	67	54	61	84
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	RP1	109	136	108	148	123
Northumberland Care Trust	TAC	28	50	26	26	41
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	RX4	*	171	135	128	282
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	RHA	421	378	447	418	625
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	RNU	77	150	145	n/a	129
Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust	RHX	21	15	7	7	25
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	RPG	120	n/a	115	96	85
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	RT2	163	153	130	128	146
Rotherham Doncaster and South Humberside Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	RXE	37	51	46	58	86
Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust	TAJ	40	33	23	17	51
Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust	TAH	130	95	117	68	79
Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RH5	121	102	92	64	62
South Downs Health NHS Trust	RDR	322	102	113	168	89
South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	RWN	147	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	RV5	520	553	474	518	520
South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	RRE	131	105	135	114	178
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	RQY	160	180	220	280	237
South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RXG	52	104	112	104	97
Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	RT6	103	98	95	116	120
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RXX	142	102	98	103	115
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	RX2	*	141	261	264	565
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	RNK	15	18	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	RX3	*	101	96	104	111
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RKL	261	297	240	220	243

Hospital and community health services: written complaints by mental health organisation; England as at 1 April to 31 March each year

		2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	RWQ	71	42	19	56	32

n/a = Not available.
'*' = Not applicable.
Notes:
1. Data from foundation trusts are returned on a voluntary basis and therefore data for some trusts are unavailable.
2. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Tees, Esk And Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Northumberland, Tyne And Wear NHS Foundation Trust and Kent And Medway NHS And Social Care Partnership Trust were all formed in April 2006.
3. Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust was formed in October 2008.
4. Coventry And Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust was formed in 2006.
Source:
Health and Social Care Information Centre, Workforce and Community dataset KO41a

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average it took each mental health trust in England to respond to a complaint raised by a member of the public in the most recent period for which figures are available. [51905]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Midwives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant midwives there were in each region in 2010. [51432]

Anne Milton: It is not possible to identify consultant midwives from the non-medical workforce census.

NHS: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether an impact assessment has been carried out on the proposed changes to the NHS Pension scheme; and what estimate he has made of the change in the opt-out rate resulting from implementation of those changes; [52276]

(2) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the changes to the NHS Pension scheme are sustainable and progressive; [52277]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed changes to the NHS Pension scheme on part-time members of staff who are members of the scheme. [52278]

Mr Simon Burns: At the spending review the Government announced changes to the level of employee contribution rates which would lead to total savings of £2.8 billion a year by 2014-15, to be phased in from April 2012. Discussions about how this will be implemented are on-going with unions in the context of wider ranging pension discussions. The Government will put forward proposals in June, and will then begin formal consultation on the necessary changes to scheme regulations.

The Government are committed to protecting low earners and ensuring changes are both sustainable and progressive.

The Treasury published an estimate of likely opt-out rates at the spending review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

This estimate has been scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, and will be reviewed when the Government puts forward final designs.

NHS: Redundancy and Early Retirement

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the Exchequer was of *(a)* voluntary redundancies, *(b)* early voluntary retirements and *(c)* compulsory redundancies in the NHS in 2010-11. [51923]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no extra cost to the Exchequer for members of the NHS Pension scheme taking voluntary early retirement. The cost of voluntary early retirement is borne by the member through reduced benefits.

No information is available on the cost of voluntary or compulsory redundancies in 2010-11 as the accounts for this period have not been laid. Information is available from the NHS (England) summarised accounts on costs of termination benefits for the 2009-10 year. Termination benefits include the costs of severance payments and redundancy payments including employer costs of redundancy retirement. This amounted to £266,000 for strategic health authorities, £6,825,000 for primary care trusts and £15,142,000 for NHS trusts. Data are not available for NHS foundation trusts.

From 2010-11, there is a HM Treasury Financial Reporting Manual requirement for the NHS audited summarisation schedules to further analyse termination benefits into the number and cost of compulsory and other exit packages by cost banding.

Parkinson's Disease: Physiotherapy

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of introducing GP-led commissioning on access to physiotherapy for people suffering from Parkinson's disease. [51863]

Paul Burstow: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, general practitioners (GPs) will be given real responsibility to ensure that commissioning decisions are underpinned by clinical insight and knowledge of local healthcare needs. GPs, in partnership with other local healthcare professionals such as therapists and community nurses, are best placed to understand the health needs of local populations and how to work with their local populations to design services that meet those needs.

The GP role is particularly prominent for people with long-term conditions, and in helping patients to access wider or more specialised national health service services through the thousands of referral decisions they make on a daily basis. The quality and availability of primary care services also has a wider impact on accident and emergency attendances and emergency admissions. GP commissioning should also provide consortia with incentives to invest in interventions in community based services that keep people healthier for longer and prevent or delay treatment that is more expensive.

Pharmacy

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on designation of community pharmacies as qualified providers of their regulation by the General Pharmaceutical Council; and if he will make a statement; [51041]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether regulation of community pharmacies by the General Pharmaceutical Council rather than the Care Quality Commission could prevent community pharmacies being recognised as meeting the definition of any qualified provider; and if he will make a statement. [52104]

Mr Simon Burns: I understand the right hon. Member is referring in these questions to whether the regulation of community pharmacies by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) rather than the Care Quality Commission (CQC) could prevent community pharmacies being recognised as meeting the definition of any qualified provider.

This would not be the case; rather the focus would be on ensuring, through the qualification process, that providers have the appropriate registrations, whether this is with the CQC, GPhC or other regulatory bodies.

Physiotherapy

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effects of the introduction of the willing provider model within the NHS on access to physiotherapy services for people recovering from fragility fractures. [51090]

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of introducing the any willing provider model on access to physiotherapy services for people with Parkinson's disease. [51864]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's intention in extending Any Qualified Provider (AQP) (previously Any Willing Provider) is to improve access by increasing the choice and control patients have over their care and treatment. The Department is continuing to develop AQP policy, and initial implementation guidance, including its application to specific services, will be published shortly.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of genital warts have been diagnosed in men aged under 25 since 2008. [51687]

Anne Milton: The numbers of genital warts (first episode) diagnosed in men in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England for 2008 and 2009, are shown in the following table.

Genital warts: first episode

	Age group		
	<25	*25+*	*Total*
2008	19,182	21,906	41,094
2009	19,363	22,701	42,065
Total (2008 and 2009)	38,545	44,607	83,159

Notes:

1. Data on diagnoses where the age of the patient was unknown are included in the 'Total' column. The total may therefore include some diagnoses on patients under 25.
2. The data available from the KC60 (2008 and earlier) and GUMCAD (2009 onwards) returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. A recent study (pending publication) of genital warts cases (first and recurrence) seen in GUM clinics and in general practice in 2008 has found most cases seen in general practice were referred on to GUM clinics and estimated that only around 5% of cases were seen in general practice only, i.e. figures in the table may represent up to 95% of cases.
3. The data available from the KC60 and GUMCAD returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
4. The information provided is based on reported data from GUM clinics in England that has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
5. Data are unavailable for 2010.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 and Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset (GUMCAD) returns. Date of data: 25 August 2010.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the proportion of genital warts cases in women aged under 25 which would be prevented by using a quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) in the national HPV immunisation programme and catch-up programme; [51688]

(2) if he will estimate the proportion of genital warts cases in men aged under 25 which would be prevented by using a quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine in the national HPV immunisation programme and catch-up programme. [51689]

Anne Milton: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) considered the cost-effectiveness of a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme against cervical cancer, which included assessment of the impact of vaccination on genital warts. A summary of the evidence considered is set out in the JCVI statement on HPV vaccines that is published at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@ab/documents/digitalasset/dh_094739.pdf

A copy of the JCVI statement has been placed in the Library, The cost-effectiveness study produced by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) used by the JCVI was published in the *British Medical Journal* in July 2008:

www.bmj.com/content/337/bmj.a769.full

This cost-effectiveness paper did not specifically report what proportion of genital warts cases in women or men aged under 25 would be prevented by using a quadrivalent HPV vaccine in the national HPV immunisation programme and catch-up programme.

The HPA in the modelling paper noted on the epidemiological impact of vaccination that the

'model results predict that vaccinating 12 year old girls in a screened population at 80% coverage with a quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine that protects for an average of 20 years reduces the incidence of cervical cancer by 24-93% and anogenital warts by 22-100% after 100 years of an ongoing vaccination programme. Catch-up campaigns reduce incidence in the first 30 years of vaccination but have little effect beyond that. Extending vaccination to boys provides only a small additional reduction in incidence of cervical cancer and anogenital warts, with the greatest benefit when the duration of vaccine protection is short.'

In 2010, the Department commissioned an update to the cost-effectiveness study. This study is taking into account new data on the potential protection provided by the HPV vaccines against cancer and non-cancer diseases, including genital warts. The study, which has not yet been published by the HPA, will support the next procurement exercise for the HPV immunisation programme in 2011.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Children in Care

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government, *(b)* Scottish Executive and *(c)* Northern Ireland Assembly on the proposed junior individual savings account for looked-after children; what arrangements he plans to make for the funding of the programme outside England; and whether the Barnett formula is to be applied to any new money allocated to the programme; [49816]

(2) whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Education and *(b)* devolved administrations on the implementation of savings accounts for looked-after children; [49492]

(3) which (a) charities and (b) non-governmental organisations he has met to discuss the provision of savings accounts for looked-after children. [49493]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers have met with a number of organisations and individuals to discuss how to support looked-after children through Junior ISAs. This has included Department for Education Ministers, and charities including Action for Children, Barnardo's and the Share Foundation.

As the Chancellor announced on 22 March 2011, the Department for Education will work with others to make the necessary funding available to support looked-after children through Junior ISAs. In doing so they are working with all relevant organisations—including the devolved administrations, charities and non-governmental organisations—to develop detailed proposals.

Junior ISA accounts will be available throughout the UK. It is intended that the scheme to support looked-after children through these accounts will also be available across the UK.

Business: Loans

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Enterprise Finance Guarantee loans have been *(a)* offered to and *(b)* drawn by applicants in each parliamentary constituency; and what the monetary value of such loans was in each such category since November 2009. [52144]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG), as of 13 April 2011, over 14,300 businesses have been offered loans with a value of over £1.45 billion. Of these, almost 12,500 businesses have drawn down loans totalling over £1.24 billion.

Details of the figures on EFG lending by constituency will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Car Allowances

Mr Frank Field: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to revise the rate of tax relief on mileage allowance set by HM Revenue and Customs. [45947]

Justine Greening: At Budget 2011 the Chancellor increased the payments scheme rates from 6 April 2011 to 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter. The rates had been unchanged since 2002.

The payments scheme's existing 5p per mile passenger payment was also extended to volunteer drivers.

Government: Assets

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue his Department will raise through asset sales in each of the next four financial years; and how much of such revenue will be directed to capitalisation of the Green Investment Bank. [49299]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility has not included any figures for asset sales proceeds in its spending review forecasts. This is on the basis that there will always be uncertainty until the late stages of an asset sale and that offering indicative valuations for specific assets could weaken our ability to secure maximum value from a sale process.

Budget 2011 announced that the Government are aiming to raise £2 billion from the sale of assets to allocate to the Green Investment Bank (GIB). This will include the £775 million net proceeds already received from the sale of High Speed 1. The spending review allocated £1 billion from departmental budgets for the GIB, meaning the total initial capitalisation will be £3 billion.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Economic Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 14 December 2010 on measures taken by his Department to reduce printing and postage costs. [49689]

Justine Greening: I replied to the hon. Member on 30 March 2011.

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Glasgow South of 8 December 2010 on behalf of his constituent, Ms Sandie Boyd. [49391]

Justine Greening: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs replied to the hon. Member on 21 March 2011.

Public Sector: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department had with (1) *(a)* members of the local government pension scheme or their representatives and *(b)* trustees of the scheme prior to the announcement of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review to discuss the effects of the proposed increase in the level of employee contributions; [52356]

(2) *(a)* members of the principal civil service pension scheme or their representatives and *(b)* trustees of the scheme prior to the announcement of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review to discuss the effects of the proposed increase in the level of employee contributions; [52357]

(3) *(a)* members of the judicial pension scheme or their representatives and *(b)* trustees of the scheme prior to the announcement of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review to discuss the effects of the proposed increase in the level of employee contributions; [52358]

(4) *(a)* members of the teachers pension scheme or their representatives and *(b)* trustees of the scheme prior to the announcement of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review to discuss the effects of the proposed increase in the level of employee contributions. [52359]

(5) *(a)* members of the NHS pension scheme or their representatives and *(b)* trustees of the scheme prior to the announcement of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review to discuss the effects of the proposed increase in the level of employee contributions; [52360]

(6) *(a)* members of the police forces pension scheme or their representatives and *(b)* trustees of the scheme prior to the announcement of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review to discuss the effects of the proposed increase in the level of employee contributions; [52361]

(7) *(a)* members of the firefighters pension scheme or their representatives and *(b)* trustees of the scheme prior to the announcement of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review to discuss the effects of the proposed increase in the level of employee contributions. [52362]

Danny Alexander: The Government launched the Independent Public Service Pension Commission chaired by Lord Hutton last June to conduct a fundamental structural review of public service pension provision. It produced its final report in March 2011.

Ahead of the spending review, Lord Hutton produced an interim report which found that the value of public service pensions has been increasing following dramatic increase in life expectancy at retirement. Current pensioners are expected to spend over 40% of their adult lives in retirement, compared to 30% for pensioners in the 1950s. Most of these extra costs have fallen to employers and taxpayers.

In this report the Commission concluded that there is a clear rationale for public servants to make a greater contribution if their pensions are to remain fair to taxpayers and employees, and affordable for the country. At the spending review, in response to Lord Hutton's interim report and to ensure a fairer distribution of cost between taxpayers and scheme members, the Government announced that they would implement progressive changes to the level of employee contributions to public service pensions that lead to an additional saving of £1.8 billion a year from 2014-15, to be phased in from 2012-13. This is equivalent to a three percentage point increase on average.

Public service pension schemes are not trust based and so do not have trustees. However, the Government are committed to engaging with trade unions and other groups to discuss implementation of this policy. In these discussions the Government have confirmed their commitment to the changes being progressive, and that low earners should be protected.

Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures his Department plans to put in place to increase levels of private sector research and development in agricultural industries during the comprehensive spending review period. [43696]

Justine Greening: The Government support private sector investment in research and development (R&D) through the R&D tax credit schemes which are available to all companies, including in the agricultural sector. Budget 2011 announced a package of reforms to the schemes, including increasing the SME scheme rate of relief to 225% by 2012, subject to state aid approval.

The Government are also continuing to invest in science and research, ring-fencing £4.6 billion of resource spending in each year of the spending review.

The Technology Strategy Board, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council are together providing £90 million of funding for the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform over the spending review period. This five year programme (launched in 2010) will help agricultural and food businesses increase their productivity while decreasing environmental impact. It includes £50 million of new investment to match-fund industry R&D priorities in these sectors.

DEFRA is also working with BIS and other Government Departments and industry to implement the recommendations of the Taylor review on encouraging private sector investment in applied research and knowledge transfer.

Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse from the implementation of proposed increases in employee contributions to the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme; [52351]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse from implementation of proposed increases in employee contribution to the NHS Superannuation Scheme (Scotland); [52466]

(3) what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse from the implementation of proposed increases in employee contributions to the Health and Personal Social Services Northern Ireland superannuation scheme; [52349]

(4) what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse from the implementation of proposed increases in employee contributions to the Northern Ireland Teachers' Superannuation scheme; [52350]

(5) what his estimate is of the savings to the public purse that would arise from implementation of the proposed increases in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland). [52507]

Danny Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 436W.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the level of the public sector wage bill between 2010-11 and 2014-15. [51748]

Danny Alexander: The independent Office for Budget Responsibility published, as part of the "Economic and Fiscal Outlook" on 23 March 2011, projections for general Government employment to 2015-16. Underlying these projections are assumptions about general Government paybill growth, and growth in paybill per head. Further details on the methodology behind these projections can be found in Box 3.6 of the March 2011 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook', and Box 3.7 of the November 2010 publication:

March 2011:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

November 2010:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

Public Sector: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department was responsible for formulating the assumption about the opt-out rate from public sector pensions in the Department for Work and Pensions Spending Review 2010 policy costing document; and if he will make a statement. [52253]

Danny Alexander: The Spending Review 2010 Policy costing document was published by HM Treasury.

The estimate of likely opt-out rates was scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

The Government are engaging with trades unions and other groups to discuss implementation. In these discussions the Government have confirmed their commitment to the changes being progressive, and that low earners should be protected.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Government Actuary's Department on the sustainability and progressiveness of proposed reforms to public sector pensions. [52355]

Danny Alexander: The Government Actuary's Department is a non-ministerial department that provides actuarial advice on policy proposals where relevant. In line with the practice of successive Governments and in order that advice and information is available for policy development such advice is not generally made public.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Voluntary Work

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he is taking steps to increase volunteering opportunities in his office. [51044]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My office sits within the Cabinet Office and staff are encouraged to participate in volunteering activities in accordance with the Cabinet Office's departmental policy on volunteering, for which the Minister for the Cabinet Office is responsible.

Electoral Register

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with local authorities on steps to facilitate the use of online voter registration; and if he will make a statement. [52596]

Mr Harper: As part of looking at the implementation of individual electoral registration, officials are exploring options for improving the electoral registration process, including the practicalities and potential benefits of online registration for people seeking to register for the first time.

The Government expect to publish a draft Bill before the summer recess, setting out their proposals for the implementation of individual electoral registration in more detail.

General Election 2010: Costs

Mr Spellar: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the 2010 general election. [52102]

Mr Harper: We have estimated that the cost of the 2010 UK parliamentary election will be £113,255,271.

This figure consists of £28,655,271 for the cost of distributing candidates' mailings and a further £84.6 million for the conduct of the poll. Our estimated cost of the conduct of the poll is based on the information set out in the Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2010. The overall figure will be finalised once all claims from acting returning officers in Great Britain and the chief electoral officer for Northern Ireland (who are statutorily responsible for running the poll) have been received and finalised.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Library: Lindisfarne Gospels

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will have discussions with the British Library on plans to display the Lindisfarne gospels in the North East of England. [51504]

Mr Vaizey: The British Library operates at arm's length from Government. It is a matter for the British Library Board to take decisions on access to the Lindisfarne Gospels.

Government have encouraged a constructive dialogue between the North-East and the library on how to best serve their mutual interests while complying with the library's statutory obligations. I welcome the library's agreement to a short-term loan of the Gospels to the North-East region, and to work towards an ongoing programme of loans.

Cricket: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to promoting participation in cricket among young people in the *(a)* Pendle borough council and *(b)* Lancashire council area in each of the last five years. [50970]

Hugh Robertson: We are unable to provide the information in the format requested. Sport England record the amount of funding awarded to cricket in the Pendle local authority area and Lancashire, but cannot separately identify the specific funding allocated for initiatives to support the participation of young people in cricket, such as "Chance to Shine". Funding for cricket initiatives that have benefited young people, though not exclusively, in Lancashire and Pendle is shown in the following tables.

Lancashire

£

	Lottery funding	*Exchequer funding*
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	64,000	0
2008-09	0	4,000
2009-10	57,461	82,777
2010-11[1]	57,936	2,000

Pendle

£

	Lottery funding	*Exchequer funding*
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	0	0
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	1,500	0
2010-11[1]	0	0

[1] For financial year 2010-11 data is currently only available up until 31 December 2010.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what remuneration package his Department's arm's length bodies offer to interns; [53281]

(2) how many interns his Department's arm's length bodies employed on the last date for which information is available. [53282]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Bury South.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Museums and Galleries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what funding his Department has provided to the Museum at Night scheme in each of the last three years; [52093]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who will participate in the 2011 Museum at Night scheme; [52094]

(3) what museums are participating in the 2011 Museum at Night scheme. [52095]

Mr Vaizey: The funding for the Museum at Night scheme in each of the last three years is set out in the following table.

£

	Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	*Arts Council England*	*Total*
2009	15,000	n/a	15,000
2010	75,000	n/a	75,000
2011	75,050	19,500	94,550

It is estimated that the 2010 Museum at Night Scheme attracted 85,000 people who attended 345 events at 286 venues. Similar figures are being aimed for in 2011.

To date, 218 venues have registered their events for the 2011 Museum at Night Scheme which is on target for around 250 to 300 venues participating altogether. A full list of venues can be provided by Culture 24.

Ofcom

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what timetable has been set for Ofcom's further analysis of the potential to allocate spectrum in the 872/917 MHz band. [51264]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised that it has not yet set a timetable for further analysis of the allocation of spectrum in the 872/917 MHz band. Ofcom will keep the situation under review and update stakeholders when they progress this work.

Olympic Games 2012

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to require all cleaning contracts *(a)* in respect of the London 2012 Olympics and *(b)* held with his Department to stipulate that the cleaning products used should be EU Ecolabel products accredited by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and if he will make a statement. [52374]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is a non-departmental public body with the freedom to set its own policies within the delegated limits set by the Department. All operational procurement decisions are matters for the ODA, and not for departmental Ministers. The ODA adheres to the Government Buying Standards for Cleaning Products and Services. It promotes and encourages environmental awareness and requires contractors to meet various environmental criteria through its procurement procedures.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is the private company responsible for staging the 2012 Games. It is currently procuring for cleaning and waste contractors for London 2012 venues. Within the tender process, potential contractors will provide details of which cleaning and consumable products they propose to use at Games-time. LOCOG is not imposing any single mandatory labelling scheme, but sustainability of products and services will be a key component of the assessment. All supplier materials need to adhere to LOCOG's Sustainable Sourcing Code.

Within the Department EU Ecolabel products are not currently used. Instead our facilities contractor uses super concentrated cleaning products which are diluted on site. This enables less packaging and fewer deliveries, thus reducing our carbon footprint. All kitchens within the Department use 'Ecover' washing up liquid. The Department will discuss with the facilities management supplier the possibility of using EU Ecolabel products in the future.

Sports: Clubs

Heather Wheeler: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that community sports clubs are not disadvantaged by high music licence fees ahead of planned changes to the music licensing regime. [51209]

Mr Vaizey: Responsibility for the copyright policy framework which covers the licensing of public performances of works protected by copyright rests with my colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, but the Government have no role in setting the licence fees charged by these collecting societies which are independent commercial entities.

In implementing changes to the arrangements for the licensing of music for charities and not for profit organisations, the Government have encouraged Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL) to negotiate with the relevant parties or their representative bodies on the level of fees. The Sports and Recreation Alliance is currently in ongoing discussions with PPL. If an agreement cannot be reached then the matter can be referred to an independent tribunal, the Copyright Tribunal, who can set tariffs.

Telecommunications

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the future regulation of power line telecommunications devices; and if he will make a statement. [51507]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

I have had no such discussions, however my officials have responded to a number of inquiries concerning power line telecommunication (PLT) equipment and its compliance with the Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations. In common with most electronic products sold in the UK, PLT equipment is required to comply with the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Regulations 2006, which are based on the European Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive, 2004/108/EC.

Enforcement powers are delegated to the Office of Communication (Ofcom) where a radio spectrum protection or management issue occurs. Ofcom has investigated 219 incidents, with one still to resolve, but has not concluded that PLT products fail to comply with the essential requirements of the EMC Regulations. The essential requirements require that equipment shall be designed and manufactured, having regard to the state of the art and good engineering practice, so as to ensure that the electromagnetic disturbance generated does not exceed the level above which radio and telecommunications equipment or other equipment cannot operate as intended.

The technical solution to ensure the essential requirements of the Regulations are met will vary with the state of the art good engineering practice, extent of knowledge and similar variables and no revision of the technical requirement is currently foreseen.

Power line equipment manufacturers are committed to continuous innovation as technology advances, allowing them to comply with the requirements and spirit of the regulations while providing products to better meet general consumer expectations and needs.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Christmas

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards, *(b)* Christmas decorations and *(c)* Christmas receptions for (i) the press and (ii) staff of his Department in December 2010 and January 2011. [52420]

Gregory Barker: In December 2010 and January 2011, DECC sent e-cards at zero cost and purchased a stand for a donated Christmas tree at a cost of £24.50. No money was spent by DECC on Christmas receptions in this period for press or other staff.

Departmental Art Works

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what art works from the Government Art Collection are displayed *(a)* in ministerial offices and *(b)* elsewhere in his Department; what estimate he has made of the monetary value of such works; and what the cost to his Department of the (i) storage, (ii) handling, (iii) transport and (iv) hanging of such works has been since his appointment. [52419]

Gregory Barker: The following works of art from the Government Art Collection are displayed in ministerial offices in the Department of Energy and Climate Change:

A Scottish Landscape 25/75 1973 aquatint by Norman Ackroyd

Waves II23/75 block print by Tadek Beutlich

The River at Hammersmith after Sunset 1981 painting by Ian Caughlin

After the Tomb 11984 painting by Jennifer Durrant

Permit yourself to.... 23/50 (from A Billboard for Edinburgh 2008)

Screenprint by Cerith Wynn Evans

Spring Song 1951 painting by William Gear

Winter Walk, N.2 1948 painting by Ivon Hitchens

In the Studio of Jamini Roy 1976-1979 painting by Howard Hodgkin

20.3.69 1969 painting by John Hoyland

Sundial, Queens' College 53/75 A/P block print by Walter Hoyle

Collage No.7 1974 collage by Trevor Jones

Interior with Aluminium Sheet 1970 painting by Peter Jowett

Red and Blue 2/50 1970 screenprint by Barry Martin

Green and Orange 9/50 1970 screenprint by Barry Martin

La Cathedrale Engloutie 1960 painting by Ceri Richards

Bring back Edinburgh's Trams 23/50 (from A Billboard for Edinburgh 2008) Screenprint by Bob and Roberta Smith

Icebergs, Argentine Islands, Antarctic Peninsula 1979 watercolour by David Smith

Double Chevron and Spiral 24/250 1989 screenprint by Kate Whiteford

Untitled 2350 (from A Billboard for Edinburgh 2008) inkjet print by Rachel Whiteread

Landscape with Ruined Mine painting by Bryan Wynter.

The following work of art from the Government Art Collection is displayed elsewhere in the Department of Energy and Climate Change:

HM Queen Elizabeth II (b.1926) Queen Regnant 1952 photograph by Dorothy Wilding.

Estimated valuations have not been provided in this answer. The current monetary value of a work of art can be accurately assessed only at the time of purchase or sale or by professional valuation. In the former case, the Collection is not actively traded; in the latter, it would not be justifiable expenditure of public funds to have works valued professionally.

There have been no costs to the Department of Energy and Climate Change for (i) storage, (ii) handling, (iii) transport and (iv) hanging of these works of art since the Secretary of State was appointed. These costs have been borne by the Government Art Collection (Department for Culture, Media and Sport).

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the expense claims made by his Department's special advisers since May 2010. [52235]

Gregory Barker: A total of £251.44 has been claimed in expenses by DECC's special advisers since May 2010. Such expenses are claimed in accordance with the Department's terms and conditions.

Departmental Qualifications

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the university qualifications of his Department's *(a)* directors and *(b)* Permanent Secretary. [52292]

Gregory Barker: The response is shown in the following table.

Name	*Role*	*Qualification*
Moira Wallace	Permanent Secretary	Master Degree in Comparative Literature, Harvard university BA Hons, Modern and Medieval Languages, university of Cambridge
Edmund Hosker	Director General (Acting), Corporate and Professional Services	B A Hons, English, university of Cambridge
Simon Virley	Director General, Energy Markets and Infrastructure	MA Hons Philosophy, Politics and Economics, university of Oxford. MSc, Economics, London School of Economics.
Phil Wynn Owen	Director General, National Climate Change and Consumer Support	BA Hons, Modern History, University of Oxford MA, Modern History, university of Oxford MBA, London Business School Advanced Management Programme, Harvard Business School
Vanessa Howlison	Director, Finance	BA, Sociology and Social Administration, university of Warwick Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, IPFA
Ravi Gurumurthy	Director, Strategy	BA Hons, Modern History, university of Oxford
Paddy Feeny	Director, Communications	BD, Theology, university of London
Alison Rumsey	Director, Human Resources and Capability	FCIPD CNAA Post Graduate Diploma in Personnel Management, Manchester metropolitan university HND Business Studies, Huddersfield Polytechnic
Professor David MacKay	Chief Scientific Adviser	BA, Natural Sciences (Physics and Theoretical Physics), university of Cambridge PhD, Computation and Neural Systems, California Institute of Technology
Richard Reed	Non-Executive Director	MA, Geography, university of Cambridge

Fuel Poverty

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the level of fuel poverty in the UK. [53175]

Gregory Barker: In 2008, the latest year for which this information is available, approximately 4.5 million households in the UK were in fuel poverty. This is equivalent to around 18% of all UK households.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each individual *(a)* board member and *(b)* director of the Audit Commission received in (i) expenses, (ii) salaries including allowances and bonus payments and (iii) other benefits in kind in each of the last three years. [51976]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 27 April 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The information you request appears in the Commission's Annual Accounts each year. The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2011 are being finalised and will be published in July. The accounts for previous years are available on the Commission's website:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Hospitality registers and expenses for our Chairman, Chief Executive, Commissioners and Managing Directors are published quarterly on the website.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what away days and in-house conferences have been held outside its own premises by the Audit Commission in the last 36 months; and what the location and cost was in each such case. [51978]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 27 April 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission does not hold 'away days'. None of our events off site are for leisure or recreational purposes.

Prior to the announcement of our proposed abolition in August 2010, the Commission had over 2,000 staff located throughout England. Many were professional staff undertaking different functions for the Commission, for example audit, housing inspection and research. It is necessary to bring staff together on occasions to ensure the effectiveness of operational delivery and employee relations or for staff training. Different professional groups also have different training and development requirements. The Commission only has staff meetings where there is a specific business purpose. The purpose may be to review strategy, decide on and disseminate the business plan for the year, improve communications, improve organisational cohesion, address a specific operational issue, or for training and development, including keeping up-to-date with developments in and government policies for health, housing, local government and police authorities. Some are a mixture of these. They also had a range of titles.

We are unable to extract information for staff meetings and their precise purpose from external bookings, including those for client meetings and training events, without incurring disproportionate costs.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which hotels in London have been booked and paid for by the Audit Commission in the last 24 months; how much such accommodation cost in each case; and for what purpose each such booking was made. [51979]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 27 April 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Prior to the announcement of our abolition in August 2010, the Commission had over 2,000 staff located throughout England. It is necessary for staff to stay overnight in London while attending meetings at the Commission's Millbank office, or meeting with clients, including other inspectorates, government departments and representative bodies, in the London area.

Appendix 1 lists all London hotels booked in the last 24 months, for overnight accommodation only, together with the total cost for each hotel and average room rate paid.

Appendix 2 lists all London hotels booked in the last 24 months for training or staff meetings, together with the total cost for each hotel. The costs for training events or staff meetings include room hire, food and beverages, equipment hire and delegate rates. The Commission's long-standing policy is that external venues should only be booked if meeting rooms on Commission premises are either unavailable or unsuitable, for example they cannot accommodate the numbers involved. Pressure on Commission rooms has eased since last May with the abolition of Comprehensive Area Assessment and the ending of other inspection programmes with a consequent reduction of some 600 staff employed by the Commission.

A copy of the Appendices will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Audit Commission: Food

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each invoice from Leeming Pilkington to the Audit Commission in respect of food and beverage purchases in the last 12 months. [51972]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan dated 27 April 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The invoices from Leeming Pilkington to the Audit Commission for food and beverage purchases over the last 12 months. The invoices cover two accounts.

The Trading Account—covers the staff cost and consumables, including sandwiches and beverages for lunches, for training events and other meetings held on Commission premises.

The Vending Sales Account—mainly covers the cost of sandwiches and confectionery for vending machines. Items are purchased by staff from vending machines and the income is used to defray the cost of the goods. The Charity Commission also pay a proportion of the cost through a lease service charge. The costs of supplying and servicing the machines are included in the Trading Account invoices.

One invoice relates to a reception for the departure from the Commission of its then Chief Executive in March 2010. The reception was attended by the Cabinet Secretary, the Comptroller and Auditor General and other senior staff from the Department of Communities and Local Government and Cabinet Office.

The current catering agreement comes to an end on 31 May 2011 and we will be using a local supplier based offsite from 1 June 2011.

A copy of the invoices will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Audit Commission: Gifts

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the declarations of gifts made to each individual director and board member of the Audit Commission in each of the last two years. [52015]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 27 April 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Declarations for Board Members and Managing Directors are available on the Audit Commission's website:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/legal/freedomofinformation/publicationscheme/hospitalityandexpenses/pages/default.aspx

Council Tax: Essex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the average change to council tax bills for households in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex between 2010-11 and 2011-12. [51954]

Robert Neill: The average Band D council tax bill for both Southend-on-Sea council and Essex county council remained unchanged between 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Details of the changes in council tax bills for all authorities in England between 2010-11 and 2011-12 were published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website on 23 March 2011. They can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/

Departmental Video Recordings

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1122W, on departmental video recordings, which contractors were hired to film the Hazel Blears video message in August 2008; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each invoice arising from the production of that video message. [51937]

Robert Neill: Two Media Trust invoices have now been placed in the Library of the House detailing the costs arising from the Hazel Blears-fronted video launching the White Paper "Communities in Control: Real Power Real People", produced in August 2008. One invoice shows the £11,790 quoted in the 9 March answer for the costs of producing the video.

The second invoice, for £1,210, is for running out DVDs of a revised version of the video in November 2008 for distribution at the 'Chain Reaction' conference attended by more than 50 voluntary sector organisations.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51402]

Robert Neill: In the financial year 2009-10 the Department spent £557,000 on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, nothing on *(b)* outplacement agency fees and £5.45 million on *(c)* (external) staff training.

These figures have been extracted from the Public Sector Procurement Expenditure survey for 2009-10.

In order to drive down costs, the Department is enforcing all Cabinet Office controls on applicable areas of spend. This includes a pan-Government recruitment freeze, greater scrutiny of all spend on training and stricter controls on spend on consultancy, including a review of all consultancy contracts every three months to ensure that they are necessary.

Enterprise Zones

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to provide local enterprise partnerships with information on the application process for enterprise zones. [51783]

Robert Neill: The Government are already in discussion with the first wave of 11 local enterprise partnerships on their proposals for enterprise zones.

Following the announcement at the Budget, the Government promised to host two workshops, the first of which was held on 6 April for the first tranche of 11 local enterprise partnerships. A further workshop will be held in early May for the remaining interested local enterprise partnerships.

The 'Enterprise Zone Prospectus' published at the Budget also provides guidance to the remaining interested local enterprise partnerships on what issues they may want to consider when submitting their expressions of interest for enterprise zones.

The timetable seeks expressions of interest to be submitted by the end of April. We will publish more detailed criteria once we have received these.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria he proposes to apply to the competition to identify 10 further enterprise zones. [51854]

Robert Neill: The criteria to identify a further 10 enterprise zones will be published in due course.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blackpool South (Mr Marsden) of 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 529-30W, on enterprise zones, what assessment he has made of the case for establishing enterprise zones in the areas announced on 23 March 2011; and if he will publish the evidence on which his decision was made. [51913]

Robert Neill: Seven of the eleven local enterprise partnerships were selected on the basis that they encompass one or more of England's largest cities, ranked by population. The remaining four local enterprise partnerships were selected on the basis of need, using the published location criteria used to assess bids to the regional growth fund.

Enterprise Zones: Non-domestic Rates

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism he plans to use to implement discounted business rates for enterprise zones. [52725]

Robert Neill: Local authorities will use their powers to grant local discounts that are contained in the Localism Bill, subject to parliamentary approval. The costs will be reimbursed by central Government.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of *(a)* zero-carbon homes and *(b)* zero-carbon non-domestic buildings his Department uses. [51865]

Andrew Stunell: The Government have set out in the growth review, published on 23 March, our policy on the definition of zero-carbon homes from 2016. This can be found under "Action 9, paragraphs 2.297 to 2.300, of The Plan for Growth".

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_growth.pdf

On 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 145-47WS, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), announced that this Government are committed to introducing zero-carbon new non-domestic buildings from 2019, and will maintain consistency between the definitions for domestic and non-domestic buildings as far as is practical.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultations he has had with stakeholders on the proposed reduction of the standards promoted through the zero-carbon home scheme prior to his announcement of the changes. [52368]

Andrew Stunell: From 2016, all new homes will be required to be zero carbon and the Government's approach will minimise costs to house builders and so help them to deliver the new homes the country needs. Although it would have been inappropriate to pre-empt the Budget announcement by consulting external partners on the specific terms of the announcement in the Plan for Growth, my Department has had, and continues to have, a continuous dialogue with the full range of interested parties; for example, through the 2016 Task Force and the independent Zero Carbon Hub, on its zero-carbon homes policy.

The Zero Carbon Hub has led a cross-sector research group, with representation from both house builders and environmental groups, which provided expert recommendations, prior to the recent announcement alongside the Budget, on the right minimum levels of carbon reductions to be required on the site of the home itself.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* levels of employment in and *(b)* the contribution to the economy of the construction products sector from the decision to reduce carbon standards for new homes arising from the work of the zero-carbon home taskforce. [52369]

Andrew Stunell: From 2016, all new homes will be required to be zero carbon and the new definition will minimise costs to house builders and help them to deliver the new homes the country needs. The construction sector should benefit from the certainty which this announcement on the future regulatory requirements for zero-carbon homes provides enabling them to invest with confidence in new construction products and methods. The Government expect to publish an impact assessment shortly which will describe the impacts of the policy.

Housing: Construction

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities exceeded the housebuilding projections in 2010-11. [51773]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold such data.

Housing: Planning Permission

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whom his Department consulted on proposals to change requirements for planning permission to convert premises from commercial to residential use; [52675]

(2) what the timetable is for the consultation on the proposed changes to the planning process in relation to permission for conversions from commercial to residential use; [52676]

(3) what representations he has received on the proposed changes on the conversion of premises from commercial to residential use. [52747]

Robert Neill: The consultation on the relaxation of the planning rules for change of use from commercial to residential was published on 8 April 2011. The consultation ends on 30 June 2011.

It is a public consultation and it is therefore open to anyone to respond. The consultation document can be found on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/relaxationchangeconsultation

A summary of representations received will be published after the consultation has closed.

Local Government

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of arrests made at council meetings in England in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [52300]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold this information.

Local Government Finance

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 729, on Government funding (distribution), what the evidential basis was for the statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State that no local authority in the country faces a reduction in its real expenditure of more than 7.7 per cent. [52141]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 26 April 2011]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 2MC.

Local Government: Bye laws

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to allow local authorities to create or abolish byelaws without requiring his Department's approval; and if he will make a statement. [52088]

Grant Shapps: We intend to take forward proposals to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy associated with byelaws, and will make a further announcement in due course.

Local Partnerships

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the remuneration, including basic salary, bonus, allowances, expenses and pension contribution was of each individual director and board member of Local Partnerships in each of the last five years; and if he will place a copy of the most recent annual report and accounts of Local Partnerships in the Library. [51980]

Robert Neill: Local Partnerships is a joint venture between central Government (HM Treasury) and local government (Local Government Association). It has its own board to which it is directly accountable. Questions about its activities should be put directly to Local Partnerships.

A copy of Local Partnerships' 2009-10 accounts (covering the eight months from its incorporation on 1 July 2009) has been placed in the Library of the House.

Park Homes

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 249W, on Park Homes: ownership, what his policy is on introducing a fit and proper person test for park home site owners; and if he will make a statement. [51862]

Grant Shapps: As I announced in my answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 294W, on Park Homes, I remain concerned that a fit and proper test for park home site owners could prove bureaucratic. I do, however, propose to consult shortly on a range of other measures to improve the licensing regime that applies to park home sites to enable local authorities to more effectively ensure that the health and safety of residents are better protected.

Non-domestic Rates: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in Milton Keynes received business rate hardship relief in 2010. [51927]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local authorities in England provide national non-domestic rates outturn information on their NNDR3 statistical returns. While these show the amounts of business rate hardship relief granted they do not show the numbers of businesses affected.

Private Rented Housing: Smoke Alarms

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the *(a)* number of jobs which would be created and *(b)* contribution to the economy of implementing proposals to make hard-wired smoke alarms mandatory in private rented dwellings. [51761]

Andrew Stunell: The Department has no data on the potential to create jobs and contribution to the economy of the implementation of this proposal.

There are around 3 million properties within the private rented sector. The Fire and Risk Management Journal suggests that the cost of installing a hard-wired, battery backup, interlinked system with three detectors would be in the region of £180 to £400. This would mean a cost to the sector of £540 million to £1.2 billion. The cost of ensuring enforcement would also need to be taken into consideration.

It is education about fire safety that provides the best value for money. The installation of properly maintained smoke alarms in every household is at the centre of efforts to reduce fire death in the home, as they provide important and vital early warning of fire and can help people to escape. The Fire Kills campaign has for some time conducted high profile campaigns promoting smoke alarms and maintenance messages.

Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 1.34 of The Plan for Growth, whether his policy on *(a)* a presumption in favour of sustainable development and *(b)* processing of planning applications and appeals within 12 months and fast-tracking of major infrastructure projects applies to (i) onshore wind and (ii) other renewable energy infrastructure. [52022]

Robert Neill: The presumption in favour of sustainable development will be part of the national planning policy framework, and so applies to development plan policies and decisions on planning applications. This includes those relating to onshore wind and most other forms of renewable energy. The proposal to process planning applications and appeals within 12 months will also apply to onshore wind and other renewable energy proposals, unless they are of such a scale that requires an application under the major infrastructure planning regime, in which case the fast-tracking of proposals using the major infrastructure process will apply.

Social Rented Housing

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were available for *(a)* rent and *(b)* shared ownership sale by housing associations and housing trusts in (i) Milton Keynes and (ii) England on the most recent date for which figures are available. [51926]

Andrew Stunell: Figures are collected at local authority district level for housing associations and housing trusts who are registered providers. The regulatory and statistical return managed by the Tenant Services Authority asks registered providers to report data on their stock.

The returns showed that as at 31 March 2010 registered housing associations and housing trusts owned approximately 7,215 homes in Milton Keynes for social rent. Of these, 447 units comprised housing specifically intended for older people, 320 comprised other supported housing and the remaining 6,448 were intended for households with general needs. Of these 'general needs' homes, 90 were vacant, of which 53 were available for letting. Information on vacancy in the stock of supported housing and housing for older people is not collected by local authority area.

The returns also showed that as at 31 March 2010 registered housing associations and housing trusts owned approximately 2,242,657 homes in England for social rent. Of these, approximately 315,777 units comprised housing specifically intended for older people, approximately 101,617 comprised other supported housing and the remaining 1,825,263 were intended for households with general needs. Of these 'general needs' homes, 27,946 were vacant, of which 12,101 were available for letting.

During the year to 31 March 2010 there were 356 low cost home ownership sales made by registered providers of their stock in Milton Keynes, and 13,721 across England.

Additionally, properties are made available for shared ownership by other providers, including through Section 106 agreements.

Additional affordable homes since April 2010 will count towards the affordable homes element of the new homes bonus, which provides a powerful incentive for local authorities to increase housing supply. Milton Keynes will receive a £350 premium per affordable home for the six years on top of the main part of the bonus, which, in total, is £2,513,998 for year one.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the capacity of the social rented sector to offer alternative accommodation to tenants who need to move to smaller properties following the restriction of housing benefit to household size *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region. [52435]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* An impact assessment was published by the Department for Work and Pensions. The DWP and my Department are working with local authorities, social landlords and other interested parties on implementation and associated issues ahead of the introduction of the proposed changes in 2013.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the total level of compensation paid to tenants by landlords for failure to comply with the deposit protection scheme in each year since its inception; [52526]

(2) how many tenants have applied for recompense from landlords for failure to comply with the requirements of the deposit protection scheme in each year since its inception; [52527]

(3) how many landlords have been found to be in breach of the deposit protection scheme in each year since its inception. [52528]

Grant Shapps: My Department does not hold this information.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50079]

Chris Grayling: Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes it clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

The following information gives details of this Department's Ministers' use of public transport:

Minister	*Date last travelled on a bus*	*Number of times since May 2010*	*Dated last travelled on the London Underground*	*Number of times since May 2010*
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Duncan Smith)	Not used	Not applicable	Not used	Not applicable
Minister for Employment (Chris Grayling)	1 April 2011	1	3 March 2011	46
Minister for Pensions (Steve Webb)	Not used	Not applicable	30 March 2011	11
Minister for Disabled People (Maria Miller)	Not used	Not applicable	17 February 2011	3
Minister for Welfare Reform (Lord Freud)	1 April 2011	1	The Minister has a Freedom Pass which is not monitored by this Department	Not applicable

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50176]

Chris Grayling: Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes it clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

The Minister for Pensions, the hon. Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb) and I have Oyster cards paid for by this Department for use on Government business.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51381]

Chris Grayling: The Department has a reducing headcount profile and a freeze on recruitment has been in place in the Department since May last year. Replacement of leavers is authorised only in exceptional circumstances and is subject to Chief Executive Officer and Permanent Secretary approval. All exceptions made to the freeze are reported to Ministers on a monthly basis.

The Department does not record a staff vacancy rate. Staff turnover rate is used as a key measure in workforce planning.

The turnover rate is used to monitor the pace at which staff leave as a proportion of the total number of staff in the Department. Turnover is expressed as an annual percentage rate.

In February 2011 the annual departmental turnover rate for permanent staff was 3.81 %. This rate excludes all staff on fixed-term contracts. Since April last year there has been a slight upward trend in the turnover rate and our current planning assumption is that it will rise from its current rate to 4.00% during 2011-12.

Employment: Sickness Absence

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the terms of reference are of the review of sickness absence at work announced by his Department on 17 February 2011. [50934]

Chris Grayling: The independent review of sickness absence in Great Britain was announced by the Prime Minister on 17 February 2011. Its terms of reference can be found at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/sickness-absence-review

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who will be consulted as part of the review of sickness absence at work announced by his Department on 17 February 2011. [50935]

Chris Grayling: The independent review of sickness absence in Great Britain has begun to engage with a wide range of stakeholders including:

trade unions;

employers and those representing employers groups;

health care professionals and health care representative groups;

industry professionals including insurers and providers of occupational health and vocational rehabilitation services;

the public sector and public sector employers; and

other Governments Departments and the devolved Administrations.

The review has also established a web presence at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/sickness-absence-review

and welcomes contributions from all interested individuals or groups, who should email:

sickness.absencereview@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

with contributions to the review.

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the review of sickness absence at work announced by his Department on 17 February 2011 to report. [50936]

Chris Grayling: The independent review of sickness absence in Great Britain is expected to report in autumn 2011.

Harrington Review

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress is being made on implementing the recommendations of the Harrington review into workplace capability assessments; and if he will make a statement. [51532]

Chris Grayling: We are committed to taking forward the review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer and more effective.

Many of these changes are already in place and we will implement the remainder by the summer to coincide with the first work capability assessments of incapacity benefits claimants taking part in the full nationwide reassessment.

Housing Benefit

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data his Department will need in order to carry out the review of changes to housing benefit committed to in the Government's response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee's Second Report of 2010-11, on housing benefit; how he will measure the effects of housing benefit changes on overcrowding; and if he will make a statement. [52187]

Steve Webb: The Department has conducted a procurement exercise with leading research organisations for the independent review of the impact of the housing benefit measures.

We anticipate that it will consider the effects of housing benefit changes on overcrowding in the private sector and include fieldwork with different types of households in a range of areas across Great Britain.

Housing: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria his Department used to determine the allocation of discretionary housing payments to local authorities in England for 2011-12; and how much has been allocated to each. [49484]

Steve Webb: The formula that has been used to allocate the original £20 million of discretionary housing payments (DHP) is the same as that used in previous years. Each authority's allocation is based on the mid-point between its DHP spend for the latest year for which we have reliable data and its contribution for that year.

The remaining £10 million has been allocated based upon the Department's estimates of the total gross reduction in housing benefit entitlement in each local authority. The overall allocation has been adjusted following discussions with the local authority associations to ensure that no local authority is allocated less in 2011-12 than it was in 2010-11.

All local authorities were advised of their individual allocation on 2 February 2011:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/s2-2011.pdf

Incapacity Benefit: Sunderland

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any workplace capability assessments have been conducted on existing incapacity benefit claimants in the Sunderland area in place of personal capability assessments to date. [51626]

Chris Grayling: Reassessing all those on incapacity benefits is a significant task and we are undertaking it in a staged way in order to manage risks and learn from experience.

The process began on 11 October 2010 with a trial which was restricted to cases in the Aberdeen and Burnley areas.

The next step, from 28 February 2011, was an introductory phase involving small numbers of cases nationally—the first work capability assessments (WCAs) from this phase are due to commence from 11 April 2011 and this may include small numbers of cases from Sunderland.

Full roll-out of national reassessment began on 4 April 2011. To date this exercise has not generated any WCAs.

Independent Living Fund

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 125W, on the Independent Living Fund, when his Department plans to launch its consultation on the Independent Living Fund; whom it plans to consult; and what issues it plans to consult on. [51533]

Maria Miller: Our consultation on how we can best support the needs of the 21,000 users of the Independent Living Fund (ILF) beyond the end of this Parliament will take place following the report of the independent Commission on Funding of Care and Support.

We have committed to consulting with disabled people, the current users of the ILF, local authorities, the devolved Administrations and other interested parties.

The Government are committed to delivering genuine choice and control for disabled people through further personalisation and localisation of care and support; we will consult how the needs of the 21,000 can be best met in line with those objectives.

NHS: Swimming Pools

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to his Department was of maintaining the swimming pool at the NHS premises at Quarry house in Leeds in the last financial year for which figures are available. [52347]

Chris Grayling: The Department of Health shares Quarry house in Leeds with the Department for Work and Pensions, which is responsible for the property.

DWP occupies its properties, including Quarry house, under the terms of a 20-year private finance initiative contract entered into in 1998 and pays an all-inclusive unitary charge. Maintenance of the swimming pool is included within the contract. The cost is not separately identifiable The pool and associated leisure centre are franchised to a separate service provider which charges for access by DWP and DH staff and a number of external public groups.

Nurses

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether staff in his Department and the public bodies for which it is responsible have direct access to nurse-based medical advice as part of his Department's absence management policy. [51716]

Chris Grayling: Managers employed by the Department for Work and Pensions and the public bodies for which it is responsible may, when necessary, refer employees to a nurse-based occupational health service. This service is delivered predominantly by telephone and provides advice about reducing the adverse effects of a health condition on the employee's work performance or about helping the employee quickly to return to work from sick leave.

Sick Leave

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets he has set for the reduction of rates of sickness and unauthorised absence in his Department and the public bodies for which it is responsible. [51717]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions has a target to reduce sickness absence to 7.7 days per employee per year, or lower, by 31 March 2012. We have consistently reduced sickness absence from a level of 11.1 days per employee per year in 2007 to 8.1 days per employee per year currently and will strive for further improvement.

We aim to meet the target through an ongoing programme to help employees maintain good health, such as providing stress counselling, and by appropriate use of occupational health services to rehabilitate staff who do take sick leave. If, following the provision of all reasonable help, an employee is unable to maintain a satisfactory attendance record, we will take administrative action. Where necessary, this will include dismissal or retirement.

We have not set a target for other types of unauthorised leave because the vast majority of unauthorised leave, when it occurs, relates to strike action. The Department's aspiration is to avoid strikes.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the potential savings to the Exchequer of means testing the winter fuel allowance so that no one with an income of more than £35,000 is entitled to claim the benefit. [51506]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payment eligibility covers those who have reached women's state pension age (including men who have yet to reach the male state pension age of 65) and are ordinarily resident in the UK.

Information on winter fuel payment eligibility and households with higher annual incomes is available from data collected in the Family Resources Survey.

If entitlement to winter fuel payments were restricted to those in households with annual net income of £35,000 or less before housing costs, it is estimated that the total winter fuel payment bill for Great Britain would reduce by £270 million per year in 2011-12 prices.

In 2011-12, winter fuel payment expenditure is forecast to be £2.124 billion. As such, the saving represented by restricting it to those in households with annual net income of £35,000 or less before housing costs, would be 13%.

Notes:

1. Information on household income and eligibility for winter fuel payments are available from the Family Resources Survey, for which 2008-09 is the latest year available.

2. Estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. For this reason savings are rounded to the nearest £10 million.

3. For the purpose of this question, net household incomes before housing costs have been used. This includes net earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Incomes are net of income tax, national insurance and council tax. In practice, the level of savings may vary due to how this would be implemented. The costings assume those who would be eligible for winter fuel payments under the current system in a household with net income above £35,000 per annum in 2011-12 no longer receive winter fuel payments. It assumes that all other households are unaffected.

4. Savings to winter fuel payment expenditure use the 2011-12 expenditure forecasts that are consistent with the Budget 2011 forecasts and are therefore based on a £200 payment to households containing someone aged over female state pension age, with an additional £100 payment to households containing someone aged 80 or over. There are additional rules determining how much households containing more than one eligible individual and individuals in receipt of certain benefits receive. These additional rules are also included in the calculations. Family Resources Survey data have been used to calculate the proportion of expenditure which goes to households above the income level as specified.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of apprenticeship starts for those aged *(a)* 16 to 18, *(b)* 19 to 25 and *(c)* over 25 years were undertaken by individuals who were already employees of the employer offering the apprenticeship in the last quarter for which figures are available. [51719]

Mr Hayes: Information on the number of apprenticeships started by individuals already in the employment of the employer offering the apprenticeship is not available.

Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in England by age for the second quarter of 2010/11 (provisional), the latest quarter for which data is available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by age, between November 2010 and January 2011 (Provisional).

	Apprenticeship starts (Provisional)	
Age	*Count*	*Percentage*
16-18 years old	22,500	24.6
19-24 years old	29,400	32.2
25 years and older	39,500	43.2
Total	91,500	100

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

2. Age is based on age at the start of the programme.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts there were in each employment sector in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available. [51751]

Mr Hayes: Tables 1 to 4 show apprenticeship starts by sector subject area for each of the last 12 quarters for which data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area and quarter, 2007/08

	2007/08	
Sector subject area	*February 2008 to April 2008*	*May 2008 to July 2008*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	700	900
Arts, Media and Publishing	—	—
Business, Administration and Law	13,600	16,500
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	2,300	4,700
Education and Training	100	100
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	9,000	6,000
Health, Public Services and Care	8,100	8,800
Information and Communication Technology	1,300	1,500
Languages, Literature and Culture	—	—
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	1,300	1,900

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area and quarter, 2007/08

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area and quarter, 2007/08

	2007/08	
Sector subject area	*February 2008 to April 2008*	*May 2008 to July 2008*
Preparation for Life and Work	—	—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	11,100	12,400
Science and Mathematics	—	—
Unknown	700	1,000
Total	48,400	53,800

Table 2: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area and quarter, 2008/09

	2008/09				
Sector subject area	*August 2008 to October 2008*	*November 2008 to January 2009*	*February 2009 to April 2009*	*May 2009 to July 2009*	*Total*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	2,500	1,100	900	700	5,200
Arts, Media and Publishing	100	—	100	100	200
Business, Administration and Law	21,300	15,600	16,200	10.900	64,100
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	19,800	3,900	2,100	3.500	29,200
Education and Training	300	200	400	300	1,200
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	19,400	6,500	5,800	5,300	37,000
Health, Public Services and Care	11,800	8,100	8,400	6,600	34,900
Information and Communication Technology	3,500	2,100	1,900	1.300	8,800
Languages, Literature and Culture	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	3,800	2,100	2,600	2,800	11,300
Preparation for Life and Work	—	—	—	—	—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	19,900	10,000	10.100	8,100	48,000
Science and Mathematics	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	102,300	49,800	48,300	39,500	239,900

Table 3: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area and quarter 2009/10

	2009/10				
Sector subject area	*August 2009 to October 2010*	*November 2009 to January 2010*	*February 2010 to April 2010*	*May 2010 to July 2010*	*Total*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	2,600	1,000	1,100	1,000	5,700
Arts, Media and Publishing	200	100	100	100	400
Business, Administration and Law	21,000	14,600	21,400	19,500	76,600
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	14,900	3,500	3,000	3,800	25,200
Education and Training	300	100	300	200	900

Table 3: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area and quarter 2009/10

	2009/10				
Sector subject area	*August 2009 to October 2010*	*November 2009 to January 2010*	*February 2010 to April 2010*	*May 2010 to July 2010*	*Total*
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	17,800	6,200	6,900	7,000	37,900
Health, Public Services and Care	13,900	8,200	11,100	10,900	44,200
Information and Communication Technology	4,600	2,000	4,100	1,900	12,600
Languages, Literature and Culture	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	4,600	2,300	3,400	4,400	14,700
Preparation for Life and Work	—	—	—	—	—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	19,400	13,000	13,500	15,700	61,600
Science and Mathematics	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	99,300	51,000	64,800	64,500	279,700

Table 4: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area and quarter, 2010/11

	Provisional 2010/11 (August to January)	
Sector subject area	*August 2010 to October 2010 (provisional)*	*November 2010 to January 2011 (provisional)*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	2,700	1,300
Arts, Media and Publishing	300	200
Business, Administration and Law	27,700	25,700
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	16,000	4,100
Education and Training	700	700
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	17,800	8,400
Health, Public Services and Care	17,200	18,100
Information and Communication Technology	5,800	3,000
Languages, Literature and Culture	—	—
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	6,100	4,700
Preparation for Life and Work	—	—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	27,700	25,300
Science and Mathematics	—	—
Unknown	—	—
Total	122,000	91,500

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Provisional estimates for 2010/11 are not directly comparable with figures for earlier years.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March:

> http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Arms Trade: Libya

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the oral statement by the Prime Minister of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 707, on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, and the answers from the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1173W and 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 475-6W, on arms trade: exports, how many *(a)* single and *(b)* open licences for Libya remain unrevoked; and what (i) equipment and (ii) services are covered by those licences. [52149]

Mr Prisk: There are eight standard individual export licences (SIELs) that remain unrevoked for Libya.

These licences were for the temporary export of goods for exhibition purposes. It is a condition of the licence that the goods must be returned to the UK within 12 months of issue. If we were to revoke the licences, the condition that the goods must be returned to the UK would no longer hold.

The goods permitted for export by these licences are as follows:

> gun mountings, machine guns (one), sniper rifles (one), weapon cleaning equipment, weapon sights;
>
> components for assault rifles, components for machine guns, training small arms ammunition;

assault rifles (three), assault rifles (four), semi-automatic pistols (four), sniper rifles (two);

accessories for military small arms training equipment, components for military small arms training equipment, military small arms training equipment, software for the use of military small arms training equipment;

components for military small arms training equipment, military small arms training equipment, software for the use of military small arms training equipment;

all-wheel drive vehicles with ballistic protection, military utility vehicles;

components for military improvised explosive device decoying/detection/disposal/jamming equipment, military improvised explosive device decoying/detection/disposal/jamming equipment;

software enabling equipment to function as forward observer/target recognition training equipment, software for the simulation of military operation scenarios.

There is also one open individual export licence (OIEL) where Libya is a permitted destination. This licence permits the export of improvised explosive device disposal equipment.

Licences for the export of dual use goods to Libya for use by private companies also remain extant.

Arms Trade: Saudi Arabia

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the licence granted to BAE Systems for the export of Tactica armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia included conditions that (1) they should be used only for defensive purposes inside Saudi Arabia; [51702]

(2) machine guns should not be fitted to them. [51703]

Mr Prisk: There was no such condition attached to the export licence.

Companies: North East England

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many publicly-quoted companies with headquarters in the North East there were in each of the last five years. [51966]

Mr Davey: Companies House does not hold any information on companies broken down by regions. Neither could it identify which public limited companies were also quoted companies. Also, Companies House holds information only on companies' registered offices, which are not necessarily their headquarters.

Debts: Advisory Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many of the 129 debt management firms cautioned by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in September 2010, and which have not had their consumer credit licence revoked, are still not in compliance with OFT guidance on debt management; [51924]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that debt management firms cautioned by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in September 2010 and which still hold a consumer credit licence are not operating within OFT guidance; and if he will make a statement. [51925]

Mr Davey: Following publication of the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) compliance review findings report in September 2010 and its warning to 129 debt management firms, 42 debt firms have surrendered their licences, action has been taken to revoke licences in 10 cases (two companies have subsequently surrendered their licences), four are under further investigation and 75 further cases are currently in the process of being reviewed.

The review process is ongoing and the OFT will be in contact with each of the 75 businesses to discuss its analysis. Those which fail to meet compliance standards may also find themselves subject to licensing action, and where enforcement action is taken, the OFT will announce this in the usual way.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on measures to prevent debt management firms from contravening the debt management guidance issued by the Office of Fair Trading. [52011]

Mr Davey: All who provide debt management services are required to be licensed under the Consumer Credit Act 1974. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has a duty to ensure that applicants for licences are fit to engage in the activities for which they wish to be licensed, and to monitor the continuing fitness of those to whom licences have been granted. Where the OFT has evidence of unfair practices, action can be taken to refuse or revoke or place conditions on the consumer credit licence of those concerned.

The OFT's Debt Management Guidance sets out minimum standards for debt management companies in the marketing of their services, pre-contract contact, the provision of pre-contract information, contract terms, advice and the nature of the debt management service provided. The OFT takes enforcement action where it has evidence that licensees are acting in breach of this guidance. As part of the OFT's compliance strategy for this sector, it will also issue a revised version of the guidance for consultation in the summer, which will provide additional clarification on unfair practices.

Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the role of Chief Scientific Adviser to his Department. [50150]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* The current Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is Professor Brian Collins, whose contract ends in May 2011.

The future of the role of the BIS Chief Scientific Adviser is currently being discussed within the Department and with the Government Chief Scientific Adviser as part of a broader consideration of the Department's science and engineering capability. The post is expected to be advertised shortly.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication "Principles of Good Employment Practice". [42624]

Mr Davey: No formal assessment has yet been undertaken of how the Department has adhered to the Cabinet Office publication "Principles of Good Employment Practice", given their relatively recent launch on 13 December 2010. However, processes and controls are in place to ensure that the principles are complied with on an ongoing basis by the following means:

> The principles have been disseminated across the Department's network of agencies and non-departmental public bodies for consideration in procurement activities.
>
> Tender documents which are issued by the Department follow the Cabinet Office best practice guidance.
>
> The Department reviews its procurement procedures and documentation regularly to ensure continuing compliance with Cabinet Office guidance.
>
> The Department uses outcome based specifications wherever appropriate. Procurement staff seek opportunities where appropriate to promote skills training, qualifications and apprenticeships in contracts.
>
> The Department's standard terms and conditions contain clauses covering discrimination, disability and race equality. Should a breach of these conditions occur, the Department has the ultimate option to terminate the contract.

Departmental Contracts

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contracts his Department and its associated public bodies signed with Lockheed Martin in each of the last 10 years; and for what purposes each such contract was let. [50691]

Mr Davey: The Department and its predecessors have let no contracts with Lockheed Martin in the last 10 years.

Details of contracts let by associated public bodies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to provide a substantive response to the letter to his Department from the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross of 13 October 2010 on the case of Christopher Shepherd. [51785]

Mr Davey: I responded to the letter of 13 October from my hon. Friend for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross on 13 October 2010 on 6 April 2011.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51531]

Mr Davey: The Government have not set targets for a reduction in the number of posts in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills or its non-departmental public bodies.

Work force implications of the spending review settlement will depend on internal budget allocations and subsequent management decisions.

It is anticipated that we will need to reduce staff numbers across the core Department by around 275 people in 2011-12.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the job title is of each member of staff in each division of his Department and paid through his Department's payroll who *(a)* is on loan from another Government Department and *(b)* has shared responsibilities with another Government Department. [51584]

Mr Davey: There are 72 people on the Department's payroll who are on loan from other Government Departments. Records are not held centrally on job titles but the following table shows this broken down by grade.

Grade	*Number of people loan in—payroll*
AO	1
EO	7
HEO	19
SEO	1
Grade 7	32
Grade 6	9
SCS	3

In addition to the above, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has 49 military staff on loan from the MOD who are on MOD payroll but UKTI refunds the costs.

In terms of shared responsibilities with other Government Departments, the current staffing is set out in the following table.

Shared responsibilities	*Current staffing*
Joint Apprenticeships Unit (with DfE)	1 Deputy Director 3 Grade 6 2 Grade 7 3 SEO 5 HEO/Faststream 1 EO 1 EA
Trade Policy Unit (with DfID)	4 Deputy Director 4 Grade 6 10 Grade 7 3 Economists 3 SEO 15 HEO 5 Faststream 1 Economic Assistants 3 EO

Shared responsibilities	*Current staffing*
Private Office to Lord Green (with FCO)	1 Grade 7
	0.25 HEO
	4EO
Private Office to John Hayes MP (with DfE)	1 SEO
	1 FS
	2 EO

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff from his Department are on loan to other Government Departments. [51585]

Mr Davey: There are currently 186 employees on loan out to other Government Departments, of which 60 are staff from UK Trade and Investment.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what units of his Department in place on the date of his appointment are shared with other Government Departments; how many staff at each grade from Executive Officer to Grade 3 are assigned to each such unit; and which Departments meet the staff costs of each member of staff in such units. [51624]

Mr Davey: The information on shared units based in BIS is provided in the following table, detailing the shared units in place in May 2010, current staffing and details of which Department meets staff costs.

Joint unit in place May 2010	*Current staffing*	*Department which meets staff costs*
Joint Apprenticeships Unit(with DfE)	1 Deputy Director	All costs met by BIS except DfE employs 1 Grade 7 and 1 HEO
	3 Grade 6	
	2 Grade 7	
	3SEO	
	5 HEO/HEOD	
	1 EO	
	1 EA	
Trade Policy Unit (with DfID)		Cost split between BIS and DfID:
	4 Deputy Director	3 BIS/1 DfID
	4 Grade 6	1 BIS/3 DfID
	10 Grade 7	6BSI/4 DfID
	3 Economists	2 BIS/1 DfID
	3SEO	3 BIS
	15 HEO	10 BIS/5 DfID
	5 Faststream	3 BIS/2 DfID
	1 Economic Assistants	1 BIS
	3EO	3 BIS
Private Office to Lord Green(with FCO)	1 Grade 7	All costs met by BIS except FCO employs 2 EOs
	0.25 HEO	
	4EO	
Private Office to John Hayes MP (with DfE)	1 SEO	All costs met by BIS except DfE employs 1 EO
	1 FS	
	2EO	
Integrating Employment and Skills (with DWP)	Now disbanded	—
Private Office to Ed Vaizey MP	Now solely DCMS	—

In addition, BIS and the FCO work jointly in support of UK Trade and Investment, a non-ministerial Government Department. UK Trade and Investment draws people from both BIS and the FCO to achieve its objectives.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* job title is and *(b)* responsibilities are of each member of staff seconded to his Department from the private sector; from which company each is seconded; and who is responsible for meeting the staff costs of each secondee. [51627]

Mr Davey: The information is as follows:

Job title/Responsibilities	*Company*
Bank Charges/banking reform	RBS
Global Restructuring	RBS
Head of Science and Innovation Analysis	Imperial College London
Key Event Management	PERA
Event Organisation	Thales
Procurement	RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd
Procurement	RCUK Shared Services Centre Ltd
Government Property Unit	Jones Lang LaSalle
Government Property Unit	Jones Lang LaSalle

With the exception of Imperial College London, all salaries are paid for by the parent organisation and re-imbursed by BIS.

The data are based on information held on the department's internal IT management systems.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51414]

Mr Davey: There were 741 BlackBerrys in use in this Department in January 2010. The numbers varied during the year and there were 722 BlackBerrys in use at 1 January 2011. A total of £221,000 was spent on UK and overseas phone charges and data services during 2010.

There are currently 676 mobile phones issued to BIS staff. In 2010 the Department spent £138,000 on mobile phones. This includes the purchase of new handsets and line rental for existing services.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public body and (C) non-ministerial Department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43963]

Mr Davey: The cost of the procurement function for the Department in financial year 2010-11 was £531,907. There is no function within the Department solely dedicated to outsourcing.

The cost of the procurement functions of BIS Agencies, NDPBs and non-ministerial Departments for financial year 2009-10 is detailed in the second Back Office Benchmarking Survey, commissioned by the Cabinet Office in April 2010. This can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/back-office-benchmark-information-200910

The cost of outsourcing functions was not included within the Back Office Benchmarking Survey. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have asked chief executives of the executive agencies to respond directly to my hon. Friend.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 1 March 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 28 February 2011, UIN 43963 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House is a Trading Fund and all of its costs, including those of the procurement and outsourcing functions, are met through the fees charged for its services. Therefore, there is no cost to the public purse.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 17 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 28 February 2011 reference 2010/4259 to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking what the cost to the public purse was of the (a) procurement function and (b) outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public body and (C) non-Ministerial Department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available.

The cost of the Agency's own procurement capability in the narrow sense in which that is normally understood was £45,271 for 2009/10. In addition, £251,372 was spent in 2009/10 on supplier and contract management in respect of various long tenure science and facilities management contracts. The costs are estimated proportions of staff costs and do not include overhead costs.

The Agency does not maintain any outsourcing function.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 3 March 2011:

Thank you for your parliamentary question asking the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the (a) procurement and (b) outsourcing function of the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) in the last financial year for which figures are available.

Please be advised that the latest figures available are for the period 2009-10 which relate to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the Agency's predecessor.

The cost of the procurement function for the LSC in 2009-10 was £511,569 (in accordance with the 10 June benchmarking return).The LSC did not have an 'outsourcing function' or any functions that have been outsourced.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 17 March 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what the cost to the public purse was of the (a) procurement and (b) outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public body and (C) non-Ministerial Department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills at the current time has:

(a) The procurement function for the Insolvency Service is located within its Change and Workplace Services Directorate. Salary costs for the Procurement Team in financial year 2009-2010 totalled £125,374.27, inclusive of National Insurance and superannuation costs.

In the same period, Travel and Subsistence costs for this area of the Service totalled £2192.30.

(b) Spend on an external contractor for a defined procurement activity totalled £101,494 in this period. The Insolvency Service does not outsource its procurement function routinely.

Letter from John Alty, dated 31 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 28th February 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office spent £288,000 in 2009/10 on procurement. This follows the Operational Efficiency Programme definition and represents around 0.5% of the Office expenditure.

There were no outsourcing function costs in 2009/10.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45545]

Mr Davey: The Department is engaged in two applicable procurement projects in the current financial year.

The first is for Business Coaching for Growth. This is a new programme to help up to 10,000 SMEs a year to overcome the barriers they face in achieving their high growth potential. The estimated value of the contract is £173 million.

The second is for the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS). MAS is designed to help manufacturers, primarily small and medium enterprises, to increase productivity and competitiveness. The estimated value of the contract is £40 million to £50 million.

The Department undertook no procurement projects of *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million or *(c)*£100 million in financial year 2010-11.

I have asked the chief executives of the executive agencies to respond directly to my hon. Friend.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from John Alty, dated 8 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 07.03.2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has had no procurement projects with a monetary value greater that (a) £10 million, (b) £50 million or (c) £100 million.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question regarding how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than (a) £10 million, (b) £50 million and (c) £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service is an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and is able to provide figures for the financial year 2009/10:

a) The Insolvency Service advertised a requirement for legal services providers in the third quarter of 2009. This was awarded in the second quarter of 2010. No volume of work is guaranteed to the successful responders to this tender; however, the potential value of work under this contract has been estimated at £20 million, over the three year life of the contract.

b) Nil

c) Nil

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 9 March 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than (a) £10 million, (b) £50 million and (c) £100 million was the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available.

Please be advised that, for the period 2009/10, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the predecessor to the Agency, had the following number of procurement projects:

	Number
(a) Above £10 million	2
(b) Above £50 million	2
(c) Above £100 million	0

For the period 2010/11, the Agency has the following number of procurement projects to date:

	Number
(a) Above £10 million	10
(b) Above £50 million	2
(c) Above £100 million	0

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 11 March 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 7 March 2011, UIN45545 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House is not engaged in any procurement projects within these thresholds

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 9 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 7 March 2011 reference 2010/4400 to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than (a) £10 million, (b) £50 million and (c) £100 million (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available.

The National Measurement Office has not engaged in any procurement projects within these monetary limits in 2009/10 or 2010/11 financial years.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which procurement projects engaged upon by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date that officer was appointed in each such case. [45546]

Mr Davey: The Department's current procurement projects involving advertisement in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and the date of appointment of senior responsible owner for each are;

Project title	*SRO Appointment date*	*OJEU advert date*
Business Coaching for Growth	January 2011	8 April 2011
Manufacturing Advisory Service	October 2010	25 March 2011
Green Investment Bank - Economic Advice	June 2010	11 December 2010
Green Investment Bank - Business Design	June 2010	11 December 2010

I have asked chief executives of the executive agencies to respond directly to my hon. Friend. Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 9 March 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking which procurement projects engaged upon by the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available and on what date they were appointed in each such case.

Please be advised that the Agency has three senior responsible officers for procurement projects in the following areas: Learner Provision, Information Management and Goods and Services.

They are full-time employees, who carry out this role as part of their wider role and portfolio of responsibilities and were appointed at the start of the Skills Funding Agency on 1 April 2010.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated March 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question as to which procurement projects engaged upon by (a) his Department and (b) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date they were appointed in each such case.

The Insolvency Service is an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. In the financial year 2009 -10 The Insolvency Service was engaged upon two procurement projects, with a senior responsible owner (SRO) designated for each. These SROs were appointed on 13 August 2007 and 26 August 2009 respectively.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 10 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 7 March 2011 reference 2010/4402 to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking which procurement projects engaged upon by (a) his Department and (b) each non-departmental public body and agency for which he is responsible had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date they were appointed in each such case.

NMO has no current projects which have a senior responsible owner.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 16 March 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 7 March 2011, UIN45546 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

All procurement projects engaged upon by Companies House have designated senior responsible owners, and these owners are appointed on the date the project is initiated. We are currently engaged on two procurement projects: the tendering of our external Contact Centre and a Career Development System Project. The senior responsible owners were appointed on 22 June 200 and 1 November 2010 respectively.

Letter from John Alty, dated 31 March 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 7th March 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Procurement projects engaged by the Intellectual Property Office which had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available are as follows:

Multi-Storey Car Park (closed)	June 2006
Mainframe Renewal (closed)	July 2006
Register Maintenance (closed)	April 2008
Modernisation of Trademarks Registry IT Systems and Processes ('TM10')	June 2008
Peer to Patent	January 2009
ISO 27001 (closed)	March 2009
Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) (closed)	February 2010
Stakeholder Engagement	September 2010
Working Beyond Walls	September 2010

Redundancy

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for which agencies and non-departmental public bodies his Department was responsible on the date of his appointment; which such bodies have subsequently been *(a)* closed and *(b)* identified for closure; what provision for redundancy costs has been made in respect of each such body in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13; and what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the Exchequer from closures of such bodies over the comprehensive spending review period. [51618]

Mr Davey: On the date of his appointment, the Secretary of State was responsible for:

Executive agencies:

Companies House; the Insolvency Service; the Intellectual Property Office; the National Measurement Office; the Skills Funding Agency.

Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs)

Executive NDPBs:

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS); the British Hallmarking Council; Capital for Enterprise; the Competition Commission; the Competition Service; the Construction Industry Training Board; Consumer Focus; the Design Council; the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board; the Film Industry Training Board; the Hearing Aid Council; the Higher Education Funding Council for England; the Local Better Regulation Office; the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts; the Office for Fair Access; SITPRO Ltd; the Student Loans Company; the Technology Strategy Board; the UK Atomic Energy Authority; the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

Nine regional development agencies: Advantage West Midlands; East Midlands Development Agency; East of England Development Agency; London Development Agency; North West Development Agency; One North East; South East England Development Agency; South West of England Regional Development Agency; Yorkshire Forward.

Seven research councils: the Arts and Humanities Research Council; the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; the Economic and Social Research Council; the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; the Medical Research Council; the Natural Environment Research Council; the Science and Technology Facilities Council.

Advisory NDPBs:

The Council for Science and Technology; the Industrial Development Advisory Board; the Low Pay Commission; the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy; the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board; the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Board.

Tribunal NDPBs:

The Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal; the Central Arbitration Committee; the Competition Appeal Tribunal; the Copyright Tribunal; the Insolvency Practitioners Tribunal; the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property.

The following bodies have subsequently been closed:

The Hearing Aid Council; SITPRO Ltd; the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy; the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board; the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Body.

In addition the Government have announced proposals, subject as necessary to further analysis, legislation and consultation, to close:

The Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal; the Competition Service; Consumer Focus; the regional development agencies.

Redundancy costs

We are still in the process of considering provision for and treatment of redundancy costs for these bodies in each of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Savings

The following table sets out our best current estimates of the likely cumulative net administrative savings to the Exchequer from closures of BIS bodies over the spending review period. The savings are dependent upon factors such as the individual timetables for implementation—several of the proposed closures require the Public Bodies Bill and subsequent secondary legislation.

Public body	*Estimated cumulative net administrative savings over the spending review period*
Closure of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Body	£0.04 million
Closure of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board	No savings to the Exchequer
Closure of the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy	No savings to the Exchequer
Closure of SITPRO Ltd	£1.9 million
Closure of the regional development agencies	£727.7 million
Closure of the Competition Service	Potential savings not yet quantified

Public body	*Estimated cumulative net administrative savings over the spending review period*
Closure of the Local Better Regulation Office	£0.56 million
Closure of the Hearing Aid Council	No savings to the Exchequer
Closure of Consumer Focus	Potential savings not yet quantified
Closure of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal	No savings to the Exchequer

Regulation

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which regulations sponsored by his Department (1) due to be commenced in the next three years are derived from legislation already enacted; [51586]

(2) implementing EU obligations due to be commenced in the next three years are derived from EU legislation already enacted. [51611]

Mr Prisk: I aim to implement policy using alternatives to regulation wherever possible. Where regulations are needed, the current domestic plans are published twice a year in a Statement of New Regulation, most recently on 7 April 2011. It is not practical to project beyond this with an acceptable level of certainty to be helpful to business, and we have not sought to do so. For example, all future plans are subject to the results of consultations and to the outcome of the red tape challenge.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what machinery of government changes relating to his Department there have been since 12 May 2010. [51582]

Mr Davey: I refer the right hon. Member to the two written ministerial statements given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 15 June 2010, *Official Reports,* column 48WS and 18 January 2011, *Official Reports,* column 36WS.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51379]

Mr Davey: During 2010-11 the staff vacancy rate in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has been negligible. Frictional vacancies have been running at the rate of around 0.75%.

For 2011-12 the Department is going through an organisational change process and will lose a number of posts. Therefore, although there will be a small number of frictional vacancies, we do not anticipate structural vacancies.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51403]

Mr Davey: During 2010/11, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills spent: *(a)* £81,842 on recruitment agency fees (this figure excludes agency fees for the supply of temporary staff. These are included in the overall fee paid to agencies and therefore not broken down); *(b)* £60,157 on outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* £1,871,865 on staff training for the period April to December 2010 (latest available figures).

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) enforcement of existing rules by tribunals, (ii) the consistency of enforcement of rules between tribunals, (iii) case management training of chairs of tribunals in (A) the Tribunals Service and (B) other parts of the judiciary, (C) costs incurred by (1) applicant and (2) respondent parties in employment tribunals, (3) the cause of any delays in the employment tribunal system and (4) the effects of removing the cap on unfair dismissal claims prior to issuing its public consultation on resolving workplace disputes. [52416]

Mr Davey: The Government published an impact assessment alongside the "Resolving Workplace Disputes" consultation on 27 January. This set out the major evidence underpinning the proposals, and is available at:

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/r/11-512-resolving-workplace-disputes-impact-assessment.pdf

On the specific areas, application of the employment tribunal (ET) rules of procedure is a matter of judicial discretion and will vary depending on the particulars of each case. In 2009 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) jointly invited the former employment tribunal system steering board to consider whether there were issues of inconsistent application of practice and procedure across the system; we have published their report alongside the "Resolving Workplace Disputes" consultation and have included some of the recommendations made within the package of proposals we are consulting on. We have received comments from various stakeholders related to consistency, considered them in the context of developing our consultation proposals and will be evaluating those further as part of the continuing process.

This Department has not commissioned any research in relation to case management training of ET chairs. My officials hold regular discussions with the judiciary, facilitated through HM Court Service and the Tribunal Service /MoJ, as well as speaking to stakeholders more widely, on issues such as this.

As part of the impact assessment supporting the "Resolving Workplace Disputes" consultation, we estimated the average (median) unit costs to employers and claimants of employment tribunal hearings at £3,800 and £1,500 respectively. The estimates were based on information from the survey of employment tribunal applicants commissioned by this Department in 2008:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/10-756-findings-from-seta-2008

and include time spent by employees on the case and costs of legal representation.

We have not proposed removing the cap on unfair dismissal claims in the consultation.

English Language: Education

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1299-300W, on education: English language, on what date he plans to publish the assessment of the effects of changes on English for Speakers of Other Languages learners. [51694]

Mr Hayes: The equality impact assessment published alongside 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by this Department. There is no specific date currently planned for publication of the assessment. I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much funding his Department has provided for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in Ealing, Southall constituency in each of the last five years; [51872]

(2) how many individuals living in Ealing, Southall constituency have received financial support from Government to complete an English for Speakers of Other Languages course in each of the last five years; [51873]

(3) how many individuals under the age of 26 years living in Ealing, Southall constituency enrolled on an English for Speakers of Other Languages course in each of the last five years; [51874]

(4) how many women living in Ealing, Southall constituency enrolled on an English for Speakers of Other Languages course in each of the last five years [51875]

(5) how many individuals living in Ealing, Southall constituency were enrolled on an English for Speakers of Other Languages course in each of the last five years. [51876]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of Government-funded learners in Ealing Southall constituency participating in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course by age and gender from 2005/06, the earliest year for which we have comparable data, to 2009/10, the latest year for which full-year data are available.

The number of learners participating on ESOL courses in Ealing Southall constituency by age and gender, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	Age	*Female*	*Male*	*Total ESOL participation*
2005/06	Under 26	280	190	470
	26+	710	310	1,020
	Total	980	500	1,490
2006/07	Under 26	270	230	490
	26+	920	420	1,340
	Total	1,190	640	1,830
2007/08	Under 26	280	210	490
	26+	950	390	1,340
	Total	1,240	590	1,830
2008/09	Under 26	230	140	370
	26+	1,060	360	1,410
	Total	1,280	500	1,780
2009/10	Under 26	190	140	320
	26+	1,030	370	1,400
	Total	1,220	510	1,730

Notes:

1. These data cover participation in Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further Education/Learner Responsive provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges - Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand-led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined. More information on demand-led funding is available at: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm
4. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year.
5. Geography is based on learners' home postcode.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on historical ESOL funding at the local geography level is not available. However, the Skills Funding Agency publishes information on adult (19 years+) allocations made to individual colleges, providers and employers for each academic year available at the following link:

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/programmes/

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he gave to seeking the inclusion of measures to reform the Export Credits Guarantee Department in the Government's carbon plan. [47145]

Mr Prisk: This Department's contribution to the Government carbon plan mainly focused on the creation of the Green Investment Bank and the importance of innovation in developing a low carbon economy and did not include ECGD reforms.

Further Education: Finance

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from which sources he expects further education colleges to obtain funding following the reduction in entitlement funding. [52530]

Mr Hayes: We are rebalancing investment from public spending towards greater contributions from individuals and employers who benefit most and can afford to pay. Further education colleges and training organisations will seek income from these sources. Grant funding for advanced and higher level qualifications for new learners aged 24 and over will be removed and from the 2013/14 academic year, fee loans, repayable on an income contingent basis, will provide upfront support to enable people to continue to undertake training at these levels.

While the overall budget available for skills will reduce to £3.3 billion over this spending review period, the settlement protected investment in teaching and learning by focusing the reductions on areas which do not directly support participation.

In the 2011-12 year we plan to invest £3.7 billion through the Skills Funding Agency in FE and skills for post-19 learners. This supports the capacity for over 3 million adult training places in the 2011/12 academic year.

Over the spending review period we will:

Increase investment in adult (19+) apprenticeships;

Protect the £210 million per year investment in adult and community learning;

Fully fund basic literacy and numeracy provision and first full level 2 and first full level 3 qualifications for young adults; and

As part of the wider Government agenda to support people into employment, we will also fully fund accredited training for unemployed people in receipt of active benefits, helping them to obtain sustainable work in which they can progress.

Further Education: Learning Disability

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that further education institutions provide places for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [51276]

Mr Hayes: Skills training for people with learning disabilities is a priority for the Government. The Young People's Learning Agency is responsible for funding all learners aged 19-24 who are in receipt of high level and exceptional level additional learning support (ALS) amounts over £5,500 either with or without a Section 140 or 139a learning difficulty assessment. The Skills Funding Agency is responsible for funding all learners aged 19+ who are in receipt of low level ALS amounts up to and including £5,500 either with or without a Section 140 or 139a learning difficulty assessment.

We expect further education colleges and other training providers to recognise the needs of this group of learners within their local communities when planning delivery and to develop innovative ways of responding to their needs, working with a wide range of partners in order to meet them.

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to review the provision of non-prescribed higher education funded via the Skills Funding Agency; and if he will make a statement. [51880]

Mr Hayes: As part of the forthcoming higher education White Paper and subsequent consultation, we will consider the distinctions between 'prescribed' and 'non- prescribed' higher education in order to ensure that the student funding scheme offers a clear path for students to progress from further to higher education.

Horticulture

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to offer support to small and medium-sized enterprises to promote skills in the horticultural sector. [51763]

Mr Hayes: Lantra is the sector skills council for the land-based and environmental industries. They are committed to helping the sector to access the training, qualifications, skills and knowledge they need. Lantra actively promotes the sector as a positive career choice to young people and adults, making sure that they are equipped with the right skills for careers in the sector while encouraging people to value and take up skills and development opportunities.

Intellectual Property and Growth Review

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which Minister in his Department the Hargreaves review on intellectual property and copyright will report. [52392]

Mr Davey: The Hargreaves independent review of intellectual property and growth will report to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Post Offices

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 742W, on the Post Office: modernisation, when he anticipates Post Office Ltd's implementation plans for modernisation of the network will be complete. [51109]

Mr Davey: Post Office Ltd. will be developing implementation plans throughout this financial year, informed by the piloting of new network models, to allow 4,000 Main Post Offices and 2,000 Post Office Locals to be introduced by the end of March 2015.

Research: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has provided for translational research partnerships since their inception. [52481]

Mr Willetts: This Department allocated £595,000 of the strategic investment fund, for distribution by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), to establish the co-ordination function for the therapeutic capability clusters (TCC's) programme. The budget ran from July 2010 to March 2011, over which period a total of £225,000 was provided (subject to a final financial audit).

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) will co-ordinate the establishment of translational research partnerships, building on the existing TCC's. The NIHR biomedical research centres and units, to be designated in summer 2011 and in which the NIHR will invest £775 million, will form the basis of these partnerships.

Research: Trade Competitiveness

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the competitiveness of the UK as a destination for international private sector research and development investment. [52491]

Mr Willetts: This Department does not collect data on the competitiveness of the UK as a destination for private sector research and development investment.

A proxy for this is provided by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its Main Science and Technology Indicators Database, which shows that in 2008 23.5% of business expenditure on research and development (BERD) was financed from abroad, the highest percentage amongst OECD countries which provide comparable data. Whilst this is a useful indicator as to the success of the UK's business sector in attracting overseas financing, these data are limited as they do not capture inflows of foreign private sector research and development funds which go to non-business institutions such as universities.

Retirement: Age

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of age discrimination cases dealt with by employment tribunals of the abolition of the default retirement age. [52319]

Mr Davey: The Government's central estimate is that there will be an increase of around 260 employment tribunal (ET) cases due to the abolition of the default retirement age. This is a net change based on an estimated saving of 340 ET cases that can no longer be brought against employers on procedural grounds and an estimated extra 600 age discrimination claims as a direct result of the abolition of the default retirement age.

Further information can be found in the final impact assessment at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/p/11-634-phasing-out-default-retirement-age-impact-assessment.pdf

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the Lisbon goal of achieving science funding of 3% of gross domestic product. [[illegible]2490]

Mr Willetts: The target of 3% of EU GDP to be spent on research and development (R&D) in the Lisbon strategy, which ran from 2000 to 2010, is also a target under the Europe 2020 strategy published in March 2010. At the European Council meeting in June 2010 the UK and other EU member states confirmed the five Europe 2020 strategy targets, which included the 3% R&D target. It was also agreed that member states would implement the policy priorities at national level according to national decision making procedures.

Consistent with our public sector transparency framework, the Government do not intend to adopt national targets for the proportion of GDP spent on R&D, nor for any of the other Europe 2020 targets. However, the Government acknowledge that R&D and innovation are key drivers of economic growth, as demonstrated in the "Plan for Growth", which we published alongside the 2011 Budget.

Service Agreements

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what shared service agreements his Department has with other Government Departments. [51581]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) currently has shared service agreements for several corporate services with the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Some research and analysis, estates and ICT services are shared with the Department for Education. BIS shares a number of specific ICT systems and applications with other Government Departments and shares a building with the Department for Work and Pensions.

Stem Cells: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has provided to the cell therapy industry in each of the last five years. [52482]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills indirectly funds the development of cell therapies by industry through its sponsorship of the Technology Strategy Board. This is a wide-ranging cross disciplinary field spanning areas such as stem cells, tissue engineering, biomaterials, cell-based gene therapy, immunomodulation cell therapies, cell cancer vaccines and other related fields.

While some of the research under each of these themes can be classified as support for the cell therapy industry, it would not be accurate to, for example, apportion all stem cell research as falling under this heading. As information on "cell therapy" support is not held centrally it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data on Technology Strategy Board support for the specific area of stem cells are as follows:

2005-06: £893,000

2006-07: £2.5 million

2007-08: £2.9 million

2008-09: £1.5 million

2009-10: £2.2 million.

The Technology Strategy Board also coordinates public sector funding for the public-private partnership, Stem Cells for Safer Medicine.

The Technology Strategy Board recently announced that a technology and innovation centre will be established in the area of cell therapy. This will build on over £200 million in public investment in basic and translational stem cell science since 2003, and the launch of the Technology Strategy Board/Research Council £21.5 million regenerative medicine programme in 2009, to support the development and commercialisation of relevant technologies.

Students: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many key facts leaflets for full-time students communicating the changes to student finance in 2012-13 will be produced; if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of producing such leaflets; and what plans he has for their distribution. [51734]

Mr Willetts: The key facts leaflet for full-time students has been produced as an e-flyer, intended to be downloaded from suitable websites. It has been distributed at no cost, via email, to a range of organisations and websites.

A total of 245 copies have been printed internally for use in correspondence, including mailing to vice chancellors and the parliamentary Library. The cost of this printing cannot be separately identified as it is part of the total departmental printing budget.

The cost to the public purse for typesetting the document was £1,236.00 (excluding VAT of £247.20).

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made on producing a key facts flyer for part-time students communicating the changes to student finance. [51735]

Mr Willetts: We expect to make available an e-flyer on key facts for part-time students soon after the May elections, when there is greater clarity about the legislative changes needed to limit the fees which can be charged for part-time courses.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what radio stations his Department plans to use to communicate changes to student finance arrangements to prospective students. [51736]

Mr Willetts: Radio advertising will be part of our student finance communications campaign. The selection of radio stations across England, which is yet to be finalised, will be made using expert advice and industry radio listening research from the Central Office of Information (COI) and its relevant agencies to ensure the best reach for our target audiences.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what budget he has allocated to communicating changes to student finance arrangements for 2012-13. [51738]

Mr Willetts: The Department considers it essential to ensure that prospective students and their families know about the full package of support available to support access to higher education. This Department is working with the Central Office of Information to develop an effective and proportionate information campaign.

We have appointed an advertising agency to support this campaign and expect its costs to be in the region of £150,000, including their charges for production of press and online advertisements. The budget for chosen media is yet to be determined.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many unique visits the www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance website received between 18 February 2010 and 16 March 2010. [51739]

Mr Willetts: There were 952,555 visits to the student finance home page http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance between 18 February 2010 and 16 March 2010.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many unique visits the www.bis.gov.uk/studentfinance website received between 1 February 2011 and 17 March 2011. [51740]

Mr Willetts: Between 1 February 2011 and 17 March 2011, the http://bis.gov.uk/studentfinance pages received 53,558 visits.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48286]

Mr Davey: Officials are currently looking at the best way for Departments to regularly report publicly on spending, in terms of both baseline levels and how these levels change through the spending period.

It is therefore not currently possible to provide this information without the Department incurring disproportionate costs.

Details of all new central Government contracts are now available online at:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk

EDUCATION

Children: Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1175-7W, on children: well-being, what recent progress has been made on the production of a child poverty strategy; and what steps he plans to take to eradicate child poverty by 2020. [52019]

Tim Loughton: The Government published their child poverty strategy, "A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives" on April 5.[1] The strategy provides a framework for ending child poverty by 2020 and delivers a comprehensive three-year plan to lay the foundations for a new and more effective approach.

The strategy contains detailed timelines showing when the measures included in the strategy will take effect.

[1] http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/CM-8061.pdf

Curriculum: Humanities

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what definition his Department uses of a humanities subject. [51650]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* Section 85 of the Education Act 2002 (amended by SI 2003 (No2946)) establishes humanities as one of the four national curriculum entitlement areas for 14 to 16-year-olds (key stage 4). It defines humanities as comprising history and geography.

Departmental Accounting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [51999]

Tim Loughton: No ministerial directions have been issued to the Department's accounting officer since the Secretary of State's appointment in May 2010.

Education: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average number of *(a)* A, *(b)* AS and *(c)* A2 level subject entries per student was in (i) year 12 and (ii) year 13 in maintained schools and sixth form colleges in academic year (A) 1996-97 and (B) 2009-10. [27596]

Mr Gibb: In 1997, the average number of A Levels sat per pupil aged 17 at the start of the academic year in maintained schools and sixth form colleges was 3.32. In 2010, the average number of A Levels sat per pupil at the end of key stage 5 in maintained schools and sixth form colleges was 1.95.

The cohort of pupils at the end of key stage 5 is composed of 16 to 18 year olds who were entered for level 3 qualifications at least equivalent in size to one GCE/Applied GCE A Level and this includes both early and late takers.

AS results are not collected in year 12 and only the results that have been reported to the exam board (or "cashed in") are cumulatively counted in year 13. Advanced subsidiary (AS) courses were introduced as part of the 2000 curriculum. Prior to that, pupils could take an advanced supplementary (AS). The difference in AS qualification types prevents comparison between 1997 and 2010 results.

Data for A2 level subject entries are not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Source:

The School Performance Tables.

Free School Meals

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children received free school meals in each ward in the Gateshead borough council area in the last year for which figures are available. [51603]

Mr Gibb: Information about the number of school pupils resident in each ward in Gateshead who are eligible for free school meals is provided in the following table.

Number and percentage of resident pupils[1, 2] eligible for free school meals[3] in each ward[4] in Gateshead in January 2010

	Number of resident pupils[1, 2] eligible for free school meals[3]	*Percentage of resident pupils[1, 2] eligible for free school meals[3]*
Gateshead	5,180	21.7
Bede	310	39.6
Bensham	220	38.0
Birtley	180	17.2
Blaydon	310	26.2
Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	250	20.9
Chowdene	150	13.1
Crawcrook and Greenside	120	10.4
Deckham	390	36.6
Dunston	230	18.6
Felling	390	40.0
High Fell	380	31.8
Lamesley	270	24.9
Leam	460	31.5
Low Fell	50	5.0
Pelaw and Heworth	230	22.6
Ryton	130	11.8
Saltwell	250	32.2
Teams	280	23.7
Whickham North	170	13.4
Whickham South	70	5.7
Winlaton	120	13.4
Wrekendyke	250	17.6

[1] Includes full-time and part-time pupils, including boarders, who are sole or dual registrations, attending maintained nursery, primary, middle deemed primary, secondary and middle deemed secondary schools, City Technology Colleges, Academies and all Special Schools.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding.

[3] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

[4] Census Area Statistic (CAS) Wards.

Source:

School Census (Final)

Free Schools

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the average amount of funding his Department will contribute to the establishment of a free school in 2010-11; and whether he has made provision for additional funding to be allocated to free schools in the event that his Department's annual budget for contributing to establishing such schools is exhausted before the end of a year. [51712]

Mr Gibb: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 419W.

Grammar Schools: Human Rights

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department has made available to selective grammar schools on their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [52173]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not sent any information about the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) or the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) specifically to selective grammar schools.

Marriage Guidance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the House of Lords debate of 10 February 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column 390, on marriage, what steps he is taking to reduce the stigma against seeking relationship advice; when he intends to review relationships education in schools; and what plans he has for training Sure Start health visitors in *(a)* relationship support and *(b)* pointing couples to relationship support. [52014]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education is grant funding 12 voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to deliver relationship support services. Some of these services will include measures to reduce the stigma against seeking relationship advice, for example Relate plans to carry out a national awareness raising campaign on the benefits of relationship support, using agony aunts and social media.

The schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", announced our intention to conduct an internal review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. This includes sex and relationships education (SRE). We will announce details of the review shortly.

Five of the organisations funded by the VCS grant scheme are planning to deliver training to staff in Sure Start children's centres on relationship support and pointing couples to relationship support. This could include Sure Start health visitors.

Marriage Guidance: Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) which voluntary and community sector awards have been provided under the fund for relationships support; [51675]

(2) which awards and how much of the funding under the voluntary and community sector grants scheme will be provided for *(a)* preventative couple relationships support, *(b)* relationship counselling for couples in difficulty and *(c)* work with families which have already experienced break-up; [51677]

(3) whether he plans to monitor the amount of couple relationship support funding provided by his Department which is spent on supporting *(a)* married couples, *(b)* cohabiting couples, *(c)* civil partners and *(d)* parents; [51744]

(4) what provision for black and minority ethnic couples he plans to make from the relationships support grant; [51674]

(5) what mechanism he plans to put in place to assess the effectiveness of couple relationship support funded by grants from his Department. [51743]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* £7.5 million has been made available from the Department for Education's voluntary and community sector (VCS) grants scheme to support couple relationships in 2011-12. The following organisations have been awarded funding (subject to grant negotiations):

Asian Family Counselling Service
Care for the Family
Centre for Separated Families
Contact a Family
Families Need Fathers
Gingerbread
Marriage Care
National Association of Child Contact Centres
One Plus One
PACE (Project for Advocacy, Counselling and Education)
Relate
Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships

The majority of the organisations deliver a mix of preventative couple relationship support, relationship counselling for couples in difficulty and work with families which have already experienced break-up.

The Department invited proposals from the voluntary sector to encourage couples to take up preventative support to develop and sustain their relationship and, where relationship breakdown does occur, to put in place effective parenting arrangements so that any negative impacts on children are minimised. The areas of work for which proposals were invited included: cultural change to encourage families to seek help earlier; training of key practitioners, particularly in Sure Start children's centres, to recognise and respond appropriately to relationship distress in order to minimise any negative impacts on children; evaluation of effective practice to build the evidence base of effective interventions; and innovative approaches to relationship support—including provision of relationship support which meets the needs of those lower-income families who might struggle to pay and who are at most risk from breakdown.

Service delivery will be monitored through key performance indicators. In addition, the Department plans to commission evaluation which will consider the effectiveness of relationship support interventions.

All of the services funded by the relationships support grant are expected to make their provision accessible to black and minority ethnic couples. In addition, the Asian Family Counselling Service (AFCS) has been funded to provide counselling and support to members of the Asian community whose relationships are under stress and who find it hard to access mainstream services.

Schools: Nurses

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on increasing *(a)* investment in and *(b)* empowerment of school nurses. [51670]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education and his ministerial team have ongoing discussions with colleagues at the Department of Health about areas of common interest. School nurses are employed by the national health service and currently provide a number of services. These include carrying out developmental screening, undertaking health interviews, administering immunisation programmes, and providing health and sex education within schools.

Schools have long valued the contribution school nurses make to the health, well-being, and achievement of the children and young people in their care. The school nursing service can have a pivotal role in both providing and arranging specific training for schools in the management of long-term conditions, for example asthma and diabetes.

It is currently for primary care trusts (PCTs) and their partners to determine, on the basis of a local health needs assessment, how many school nurses there should be and how they should be deployed. The Government want to increase local flexibility and therefore have no plans to change these arrangements.

Sure Start Programme: Closures

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of Sure Start children's centres at risk of closure in 2011. [51828]

Tim Loughton: Sure Start children's centres are at the heart of the Government's vision for supporting families with young children and intervening early to prevent problems from becoming crises. The Government have ensured there is enough money in the system to maintain a network of Sure Start children's centres.

The Department for Education collects data on the number of Sure Start children's centres in each local authority area in England, but does not collect data on local authority plans for changes to children's centres. It is for local authorities, in consultation with local communities, to determine the most effective way of delivering future services to meet local need. Local authorities continue to have duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure sufficient provision of children's centres, so far as is reasonably practicable, and to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres.

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 614-5W, on teenage pregnancy: personal income, which wards his Department has classified as teenage pregnancy hotspots. [52501]

Tim Loughton: In her response to the hon. Member's previous question, the Minister for Children and Families said that wards with high rates of teenage pregnancies were found in virtually every local authority in England. We do not classify wards by their rate, but would regard a high rate ward as being one of the 20% of wards with the highest rates. In 2006-08 this means wards with a rate of at least 53.1 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces statistics on conceptions, which are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths and legal abortions, but not including miscarriages and illegal abortions. Ward under-18 conceptions data are not publicly available, to protect the privacy of individuals. However, under a service level agreement (SLA) between ONS and my Department, local authorities in England can request ward level under-18 conception figures, aggregated over three years, from ONS to enable them to target their early intervention services to prevent teenage pregnancies in the areas with the highest rates. This information enables local areas to plan their approaches to reducing teenage pregnancies, which they are best placed to determine.

The list names all those wards in England where in 2006-08:

the ward was one of the 20% of wards with the highest rates (a rate of at least 53.1 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17);

and in addition

the rate was statistically significantly higher than the England average (41.0 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17). This is to exclude wards where the rate is based on a very small number of conceptions where the rate may change considerably from year to year.

Wards defined as being "high rate" are found in nearly all top-tier local authorities (138 out of 152).

I will place a copy in the House Libraries.

As some wards have very small populations of women in the 15-17 age group, their under-18 conception rates can fluctuate by chance from year to year and may not indicate a consistently high incidence of teenage pregnancy. For this reason, ward rates are aggregated over three years. Ward population estimates, which are used in the calculation of ward-level conception statistics, are also experimental statistics and as such have not yet been assessed against the rigorous quality standards normally applying to National Statistics. The estimates are made available to users as the best population estimates for these small geographical areas and to allow user feedback on the quality of the statistics.

Further information about conception statistics produced by ONS can be found on its website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15055

Voluntary Organisations: Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which organisations received funding though the voluntary and community sector grants scheme; how much funding each organisation requested in its expression of interest; how much funding each organisation requested in its bid document; and how much funding each organisation was awarded. [51678]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The voluntary and community sector plays, and will continue to play, a significant role in delivering and improving services for children, young people and families. Through the grants programme announced on 25 February, DFE will invest around £120 million over the next two years to help support the delivery of key national priorities for children, young people and families. This grant is just one of a range of funding streams from DFE to the voluntary sector and represents a significant investment in a tough financial climate.

Following an open competition, 118 bidders were successful with their applications and grants have been awarded from 1 April 2011.

As expected, the bidding process was highly competitive and the total amounts of funding bid for by organisations significantly exceeded the level of funding available. We therefore had to make tough decisions in order to live within the available funding and this inevitably led to a need to scale back some of the successful bids to ensure the best use of public funding. In a very small number of cases, we awarded more funding to organisations than they requested in their bid document in order to secure additional high quality provision to meet national priorities. We also undertook an equality impact assessment to ensure that our funding decisions did not impact disproportionately on children, young people and families in respect of gender, ethnicity and special educational needs and disabilities.

Information on how much funding was bid for by these organisations at each stage of competition and the amount of indicative awards is provided in the following table. Please note that final negotiations are still taking place and indicative amounts may vary slightly from the final amount awarded.

VCS grant awards 2011-12 and 2012-13

£

	Funding requested via EOI (stage 1)		*Funding requested via bid (stage 2)*		*Amount awarded*	
Organisation name/consortium lead	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
4Children	390,000	350,000	390,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
4Children	390,000	300,000	390,000	300,000	390,000	300,000
4Children (Foundations for the Future)	850,000	800,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
A National Voice	257,500	265,225	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
ACE Centre North	129,500	129,000	135,251	115,133	135,251	115,133
Action for Advocacy	147,747	149,918	73,900	71,315	50,000	50,000
Action for Children	960,000	1,115,000	735,000	670,000	735,000	670,000
Action for Prisoners' Families (APF)	185,200	£165,800	178,937	197,645	100,000	100,000
Addaction	274,846	258,500	274,000	214,852	274,000	214,000
Addaction	428,424	431,963	413,264	282,592	409,573	281,674
Adfam	52,145	52,145	92,500	92,500	92,500	92,500
Alcohol Concern	217,000	217,000	117,000	264,000	206,000	191,000
Anna Freud Centre	236,269	242,062	381,417	434,410	381,417	434,410
Asian Family Counselling Service	125,000	120,000	150,000	149,800	150,000	149,800
Autism Education Trust (AET)	719,000	587,000	652,469	565,019	652,469	555,441
Barnardo's	550,000	500,000	1,119,663	1,142,221	1,119,663	1,142,221
Barnardo's	740,000	360,000	291,995	291,995	290,000	290,000
Barnardo's	531,880	774,760	518,316	879,360	518,316	879,360
Bolton Lads and Girls Club	219,120	225,418	355,041	294,278	355,041	294,278
British Association for Adoption and Fostering	295,000	295,000	299,804	299,804	299,000	299,000
Brook	130,488	80,852	139,631	100,181	139,631	100,181
Capital SHS (School-Home Support)	1,000,000	1,000,000	739,729	745,721	500,000	500,000
Care for the Family (CFF)	2,000,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	600,000	300,000	200,000
Careers South West Ltd (Positive Transitions)	13,500,000	10,800,000	3,572,769	2,851,804	1,170,283	1,229,717
Catch22	2,500,000	1,750,000	1,794,626	1,454,121	1,604,972	1,569,121
Catch22	550,000	425,000	355,672	335,730	350,000	330,000
Centre for Separated Families	240,000	180,000	240,000	180,000	240,000	180,000
Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF)	130,300	148,500	192,655	222,136	192,655	222,136
Child & Family Training Limited (C&FT)	148,523	49,760	145,483	153,437	145,483	153,437
Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB)	113,000	116,320	113,000	116,320	113,000	116,320
Children England (Kindle Plus Consortium)	985,000	886,500	1,250,964	1,209,075	1,250,964	1,209,075
Children Our Ultimate Investment	244,000	244,000	254,000	234,000	254,000	234,001
Children's Legal Centre	175,265	154,291	176,265	154,291	176,265	154,291
Children's Society	200,000	300,000	212,808	232,839	243,726	267,535
Clubs for Young People	625,000	450,000	1,000,000	750,000	650,000	480,000
Communication Trust (I CAN)	1,070,000	800,000	1,249,609	852,865	1,000,000	750,000
Contact a Family	310,000	285,000	216,525	203,298	216,525	203,298
Contact a Family	429,160	446,539	438,649	419,780	438,649	419,780
ContinYou	450,000	340,000	478,000	386,000	400,000	386,000
Council for Disabled Children (CDC)	400,000	325,000	749,642	695,650	749,642	695,650
CSV	98,179	98,869	158,672	132,507	158,672	132,507
CSV	287,000	296,000	402,423	385,423	402,423	375,423
Daycare Trust	389,076	278,863	477,566	341,197	300,000	300,000
Diana Award	198,922	132,614	198,922	132,614	198,922	132,614
Dyslexia Action	750,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	750,000	750,000	600,000

VCS grant awards 2011-12 and 2012-13

£

	Funding requested via EOI (stage 1)		*Funding requested via bid (stage 2)*		*Amount awarded*	
Organisation name/consortium lead	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Dyslexia-SpLD Trust	750,000	740,000	693,456	630,579	693,456	630,579
Early Education (The British Assc. for Early Childhood Education)	130,000	102,000	131,374	108,040	131,374	108,040
Endeavour	230,000	230,000	312,868	230,691	312,868	310,679
Families Need Fathers	200,000	206,000	303,875	307,541	261,415	263,807
Family and Parenting Institute	233,160	134,588	329,088	181,616	329,088	181,616
Family Delivery Team (Interface Assc. UK)	1,200,000	800,000	403,218	324,114	960,097	933,375
Family Rights Group	97,920	95,430	97,400	99,200	93,000	93,000
Fatherhood Institute	230,000	82,800	302,310	164,665	302,310	164,665
Fatherhood Institute	277,600	144,200	310,890	166,476	310,890	166,476
Fostering Network	175,000	175,000	78,988	79,988	78,000	79,000
Foyer Federation	450,000	250,000	544,362	353,519	500,000	353,519
Gingerbread	95,000	50,000	282,638	263,016	193,102	174,081
Groundwork UK	1,900,000	1,000,000	1,715,500	1,215,600	1,500,000	1,215,600
Home-Start UK (HSUK)	2,900,000	2,682,500	1,520,754	1,372,938	1,230,000	1,200,000
Home-Start UK (HSUK)	95,335	72,335	792,020	717,663	792,020	717,663
Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA)	55,000	50,000	70,800	70,800	70,800	70,800
Institute of Wellbeing	450,000	400,000	450,000	400,000	450,000	400,000
KIDS	437,800	307,100	437,800	307,100	385,800	270,100
Kids Company	3,000,000	3,000,000	4,485,000	4,485,000	4,485,000	4,485,000
Kidscape	127,500	125,000	133,456	127,966	131,232	137,309
Lucy Faithfull Foundation	198,000	207,000	210,519	222,911	210,519	222,911
MacIntyre	290,000	£290,000	399,168	326,004	399,168	326,004
Marriage Care	650,000	580,000	690,269	616,475	690,269	616,475
Media Trust	500,000	375,000	500,000	375,000	399,989	375,000
Missing People	150,000	130,000	215,828	222,303	215,828	222,303
Movement for non-mobile children (Whizz Kidz)	181,103	186,536	257,437	199,340	257,437	199,340
National Association for Special Education Needs (The)—Nasen	500,000	400,000	700,000	620,000	600,000	520,000
National Assc. of Child Contact Centres (NACCC)	150,000	135,000	317,475	306,325	160,000	160,000
National Autistic Society	45,773	48,774	107,681	74,941	107,681	74,941
National Childminding Association	700,000	900,000	641,115	645,092	500,000	600,000
National Children's Bureau (NCB)	148,000	116,000	99,413	79,358	99,000	79,000
National Children's Bureau (NCB)	647,000	575,000	601,949	577,723	540,000	510,000
National Children's University	525,000	350,000	525,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) (known as Catalyst)	1,411,000	911,000	1,490,300	1,089,000	1,490,300	1,089,000
National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)	880,000	908,160	743,806	745,691	500,000	500,000
National Deaf Children's Society	209,340	209,340	196,292	155,496	196,292	155,496
National Education Trust	90,000	80,000	137,300	119,800	137,300	119,800
National Portage Association (NPA)	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000
National Sensory Impaired Partnership (NatSIP)	200,000	150,000	200,000	150,000	200,000	150,000
NSPCC (Safe Network)	700,000	650,000	630,000	650,000	630,000	650,000
One Plus One (OPO)	950,000	750,000	950,000	750,000	921,250	724,500
Parenting UK	112,500	101,250	120,550	108,050	120,550	108,050
Parentline Plus (Family Lives)	536,000	354,000	698,688	603,392	698,688	603,392
Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group (POPS)	400,000	400,000	383,106	383,106	150,000	150,000
Pen Green Children and Families and Research Centre	160,000	140,000	200,397	168,752	200,397	168,752
Place2Be	121,172	127,230	317,353	347,932	221,815	240,939
Place2Be	98,728	103,665	160,338	162,031	160,338	162,031

VCS grant awards 2011-12 and 2012-13

£

	Funding requested via EOI (stage 1)		Funding requested via bid (stage 2)		Amount awarded	
Organisation name/consortium lead	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Pre-school Learning Alliance	1,500,000	1,300,000	1,211,615	986,070	865,000	930,000
Prince's Trust (and Fairbridge)	433,054	668,895	971,787	858,891	898,289	858,891
Princess Royal Trust for Carers	710,965	690,720	796,878	600,498	500,000	500,000
Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)	182, 983	181,083	314,525	343,546	314,525	343,546
Project for Advocacy Counselling and Education (PACE)	49,850	37,000	153,853	157,206	153,853	157,206
QED UK	106,296	111,242	113,521	106,767	113,521	106,767
Relate	2,150,000	1,950,000	2,146,403	1,947,630	1,850,403	1,711,630
Roma Support Group	71,600	61,948	86,387	65,431	86,387	65,431
Safe Ground	240,000	240,000	240,979	235,380	240,979	235,380
School Food Trust	2,255,000	2,255,000	536,708	620,881	160,000	200,000
SCOPE	121,000	135,000	121,693	135.256	121,693	135,256
Shared Care Network	99,000	75,000	118,072	91,324	112,000	81,000
Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)	450,000	212,400	575,770	424,208	518,193	424,208
Spurgeons	429,125	421,050	473,999	465,266	350,000	350,000
Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships	728,000	700,000	750,000	730,000	699,000	657,000
Terrence Higgins Trust	250,000	250,000	207,664	214,603	203,528	218,739
Time for Families	470,000	720,000	470,000	720,000	150,000	150,000
Tomorrow's People	1,200,000	343,000	1,116,028	557,262	750,000	750,000
UK Youth	429,125	421,050	1,308,043	781,082	454,490	512,510
V, National Young Volunteers Service	728,000	700,000	1,208,704	769,904	800,000	769,904
Victoria Climbié Foundation UK	250,000	250,000	168,880	167,280	168,880	167,280
Voice (Voice for the Child in Care)	470,000	720,000	98,000	98,000	75,000	75,000
Who Cares? Trust	1,200,000	343,000	74,517	72,411	74,000	72,000
WomenCentre Ltd	429,125	421,050	155,400	160,800	155,400	160,800
YMCA Derbyshire	1,807,024	1,499,888	847,024	851,331	600,000	599,809
YoungMinds	194,000	130,000	213,792	142,900	213,792	142,900

Note:

Disclaimer: The funding amounts are indicative. Year 1 funding is dependent on successful negotiations on detail of the grants and securing exemption for activity which is subject to the marketing and advertising efficiency controls. Year 2 amounts are dependent on successful delivery of agreed outcomes.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Procurement

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which companies her Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each such company. [52310]

Damian Green: The companies from which the Home Department, inclusive of its executive agencies, purchased goods and services of a total value greater than £1 million and the value of spend with each company in each of the last three years are detailed in the table which will be placed in the House Libraries.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51404]

Damian Green: Information on how much the Home Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. On *(b)* the Department does not hold contracts with outplacement agencies for services for displaced or redundant staff. On *(c)* the cash based expenditure by the Department, inclusive of its executive agencies, on staff training to the end of February of the financial year 2010-11 was £8 million.

Homicide

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides there were in *(a)* England, (b) Wales, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* Brighton and Hove in each of the last five years; how many of those killed were (i) female and (ii) male; what the gender of the perpetrator was in respect of victims of each gender; and whether there was evidence of (A) sexual assault and (B) rape in respect of victims of each gender. [52225]

James Brokenshire: Available data are collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales, including the British Transport Police (BTP), where the offence was committed within England or Wales, and have been extracted from the Homicide Index. These are shown in the following tables:

Offences[1] currently recorded by the police as homicide by victim and principal suspect gender, and with 'sexual' main circumstances of offence: England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2009-10[2]

Number

			Male victim					
			Male suspect		*Female suspect*	*Corporate suspect*	*No current suspect*	
Year[2]	*Country recorded*	*Total victims*	*Total*	*Sexual[4]*	*Total*	*Total*	*Total*	*Total male victims*
2005-06	England	645	366	3	19	—	50	435
	Wales	22	9	—	2	—	2	13
	BTP[3]	42	19	—	1	—	—	20
2006-07	England	683	384	3	44	1	67	496
	Wales	29	18	—	1	—	—	19
	BTP[3]	3	3	—	—	—	—	3
2007-08	England	702	409	2	42	—	64	515
	Wales	39	22	—	2	—	—	24
	BTP[3]	3	2	—	—	—	—	2
2008-09	England	608	347	4	45	—	35	427
	Wales	33	20	—	—	—	3	23
	BTP[3]	3	1	—	—	—	—	1
2009-10	England	574	315	2	25	—	59	399
	Wales	43	11	—	4	—	6	21
	BTP[3]	2	1	—	—	—	—	1

Number

		Female victim							
		Male suspect		*Female suspect*		*Corporate suspect*	*No current suspect*		
Year[2]	*Country recorded*	*Total*	*Sexual[4]*	*Total*	*Sexual[4]*	*Total*	*Total*	*Sexual[4]*	*Total female victims*
2005-06	England	180	6	11	—	—	19	—	210
	Wales	7	—	1	—	—	1	—	9
	BTP[3]	21	—	1	—	—	—	—	22
2006-07	England	153	14	14	1	—	20	—	187
	Wales	8	—	1	—	—	1	—	10
	BTP[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2007-08	England	148	7	22	—	—	17	1	187
	Wales	11	1	2	—	—	2	—	15
	BTP[3]	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
2008-09	England	147	1	17	—	—	17	—	181
	Wales	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
	BTP[3]	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
2009-10	England	146	4	11	—	—	18	1	175
	Wales	12	—	2	—	—	8	—	22
	BTP[3]	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

[1] As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] Offences recorded by British Transport Police. It is not possible to show where in England or Wales these offences were committed.

[4] Offences where it has been judged that a sexual assault or sexual gratification of some sort was considered to be the primary motivation of the homicide.

Save in respect of the 7 July 2005 bombings, it is not possible to show where in England and Wales offences recorded by the BTP were committed, and homicide data relating to Brighton and Hove could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Additionally, it is not possible to identify homicides that involved sexual assault or rape. Available data from the Homicide Index relate to the 'sexual' category—where it is judged that either a sexual assault or sexual gratification of some sort was considered to be the primary motivation.

Data are as at 28 September 2010 and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

The collection of homicide data for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Council of Europe: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have received any request from any Council of Europe institution for funding additional to its subscription for *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and whether the Government plan to make any additional contribution to any additional institution of the Council of Europe in 2011-12. [51907]

Mr Lidington: The Government have not been approached by the Council of Europe for funding outside our usual subscription.

The UK has not paid any extra-budgetary contributions in 2011 and currently has no plans to do so in 2012.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [51995]

Mr Lidington: There have been no ministerial directions issued since the appointment of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

EU Institutions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the outcome of *(a)* EU careers month and his *(b)* Department's initiative to communicate the benefits of a career in the EU to young UK professionals, graduates and undergraduates. [51822]

Mr Lidington: The objective of EU careers month was to increase awareness of opportunities in the EU Civil Service and increase the number of applications from key target groups of UK nationals to the EU's recruitment competitions. It was the start of what must be a multiannual campaign if we are to stand any chance of redressing the declining number of UK nationals entering the EU institutions. The campaign achieved some measure of success. In this year's main graduate selection procedure, which closed on 14 April 2011, the UK saw the largest proportional increase in numbers of applicants of all the member states, through a rise from 1.5% in 2010 to 2.4%. In the last week of the registration period the EU careers month's webpages were the third largest external referrers to the European Personnel Selection Office's landing pages—behind only Google and Facebook. The next measure of success is whether we have succeeded in attracting the right applicants. Evidence for this will come later in the year when we hear how many have been successful in the first assessment phase. On that basis we will re-assess the campaign.

Libya: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what non-lethal equipment his Department has provided to Libyan rebel forces. [52230]

Alistair Burt: On 8 April 2011 a Departmental Minute was laid before the House that provided full details of a gift of 120 pieces of communications equipment to the Libyan Interim National Council. On 15 April 2011 a Departmental Minute was laid before the House that provided full details of a gift of 1,000 pieces of body armour, also to the Libyan Interim National Council.

CABINET OFFICE

Transition Fund

12. **Gavin Barwell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments have been made from the transition fund since its creation. [52594]

Mr Letwin: Transition fund payments totalling just under £16 million have been paid to 202 organisations to date. A further £89 million will be paid out this financial year, including £5 million being paid out today.

Efficiency and Reform Group

13. **Simon Hart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse achieved through the work of the efficiency and reform group in 2010-11. [52595]

Mr Maude: The efficiency and reform group has worked with Departments to drive much greater efficiency into Government operations, by renegotiating contracts, central control over advertising and consultancy spend, getting out of properties, controlling recruitment and ICT spend.

We are currently checking our figures carefully, however I expect to announce shortly total savings for the year of over £3 billion.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

14. **Gavin Shuker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the savings which will accrue from the reform of public bodies in the comprehensive spending review period. [52597]

Mr Hurd: Departments are estimating cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

When reductions in programme and capital spend are taken into account, the total spending being channelled through public bodies will be reduced by at least £11 billion per year by 2014-15, a cumulative £30 billion over the spending review period.

Census: Voluntary Work

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Office for National Statistics considered the merits of including voluntary work in the section of the 2011 census on work and employment. [52981]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking whether he considered the merits of including voluntary work in the section of the 2011 Census on work and employment (52981).

The questions for the 2011 Census were developed during a four year programme of consultation, research and testing with central and local government, public and private bodies, charities, the academic sector and the public sector.

A question on voluntary work was one of many considered for inclusion, but during the consultation less demand was expressed for such information than for many of the other questions also under consideration. The demand for questions in the census is always greater than can be accommodated on a self-completion questionnaire and due to these space constraints, only those questions that have been shown to be most needed by the major users of census statistics, were included.

The questions for the 2011 Census were approved by Parliament in 2009.

Charter of Fundamental Rights: EU

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the European Ombudsman's survey finding that 72% of Europeans do not feel well-informed about the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; what his assessment is of the proportion of UK residents who do not feel well-informed about the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; and if he will take steps to ensure the UK is not affected by the Charter. [52473]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

As the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU does not create any new justiciable rights or change the current status of EU fundamental rights as they already apply in EU law, the Government do not believe it would be a cost effective use of resources to assess the proportion of UK residents that do not feel well informed about the charter.

The charter and the Lisbon treaty have not changed the content or effect of EU fundamental rights as they apply in EU law. It has long been recognised that fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Court of Human Rights and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the member states, constitute general principles of EU law (as confirmed by Article 6 (3) TEU). The charter and the Lisbon treaty do not give the European Court of Justice or national courts any new powers to strike down national laws and practices for breaching fundamental rights. Furthermore, the UK is required to comply with the fundamental rights restated in the Charter only when it is giving effect to EU law, reflecting the long-standing case law of the European Court of Justice. These limits on the effects of the charter are confirmed by both Protocol No 30 to the treaties and the terms of the charter and the treaties themselves.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have had their early payment pension under the civil service pension scheme back-dated to the date of *(a)* ceasing work through ill health and *(b)* claiming the payment in the period 1 April 1987 to 1 October 2002. [52188]

Mr Maude: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department was in each such year. [50840]

Mr Maude: The following table details the cost to the Cabinet Office in each of the last five years for which the information is available of staff who have taken early retirement.

Financial year	*Cost to Cabinet Office (£)*
2009-10	647,000
2008-09	77,000
2007-08	667,000
2006-07	45,000
2005-06	1,081,000

The information is taken from the Cabinet Office resource accounts, which does not include the number of staff who have taken early retirement in each year. This information is not held and providing it would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Identity and Passport Service: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when the Civil Service Commission was first informed of a problem concerning the awarding of permanent employment status to employees of Liverpool passport office. [52140]

Mr Maude: On 27 April 2010 the Identity and Passport Office told the Commission's external auditors that the Liverpool regional office had made permanent appointments for candidates who were not recruited through fair and open competition. The IPS told the Commission's auditors that these permanent contracts were being withdrawn and replaced with fixed-term appointments under two years in duration.

The Civil Service Commission's recruitment principles allow Departments to make short-term appointments up to a maximum of two years, as an exception to appointment on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. Any proposal to extend an appointment made under this exception beyond two years requires the approval of the Civil Service Commission.

Older Workers: Average Earnings

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the average lifetime earnings of *(a)* a woman and *(b)* a man who retired in 2010. [40178]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The information to answer this question is not available.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on the making of bonus payments to officials with responsibility for advising on or initiating the borrowing of funds by public authorities proportionate to the funds borrowed; and what guidance he has issued to *(a)* public authorities, *(b)* Government Departments, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* other agencies on this matter. [51033]

Mr Maude: There is no specific policy for the civil service on the making of bonus payments to officials with responsibility for advising on or initiating the borrowing of funds by public authorities.

The Government support the principle of performance related pay and ensuring that those who are the most effective receive the highest rewards, but this must be balanced against the need to ensure that such payments are moderate and appropriate. For the senior civil service (SCS), which is managed centrally by the Cabinet Office, only the top 25% of performers will be able to be considered for any performance related pay award this year. Under the delegated arrangements for staff outside the senior civil service (SCS), eligibility criteria for such payments are determined by individual Departments and agencies.

The Cabinet Office does not have responsibility for reward arrangements in public authorities and local government.

Third Sector: Finance

Stella Creasy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether he has plans to use funding provided to the Office for Civil Society which has not yet been allocated to other purposes to fund strategic partners in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; [51647]

(2) how much of the funding allocation proposed by the Office for Civil Society for strategic partners has now been allocated for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; and what proportion remains unallocated in each such year. [51648]

Mr Hurd: £9 million was made available for the Office for Civil Society's strategic partners transition programme (£4 million in 2011-12; £3 million in 2012-13; and £2 million in 2013-14). After an intensive selection process, a very small proportion of the total £9 million available remains unallocated—around 8%. The unallocated amounts are: £324,161 in 2011-12; £243,121 in 2012-13; and £162,080 in 2013-14.

I do not intend to use these amounts to fund organisations selected to be strategic partners as part of the programme running until 2015. I am currently considering the best use of this unallocated funding and there are a number of pressing priorities. I am keen to work with some unsuccessful interviewees on what big society policies and programmes mean for some of the groups they represent. Any commissions to these groups would be carried out this year.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 28 April 2011

TREASURY

Consumer Prices Index

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made in working with the Bank of England to investigate how housing costs may be included in the consumer prices index as set out in the coalition agreement. [53095]

Justine Greening: Both HM Treasury and the Bank of England are members of the Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC) that advises the United Kingdom Statistical Authority (UKSA) on improvements to the consumer prices index (CPI) recommended by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

CPAC has been considering the inclusion of housing costs in CPI. On 6 December 2010 UKSA endorsed the recommendations of CPAC in their 2nd annual report that the ONS should further develop owner occupiers' housing costs indices, using the net acquisitions and rental equivalence approaches, for potential inclusion in an expanded CPI within two years.

The papers from each CPAC meeting and the annual report are published by the ONS on their website.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Nick Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the fuel price stabiliser proposed in the 2011 Budget on *(a)* motorists, *(b)* the logistics industry and *(c)* oil companies operating in the North sea. [51367]

Justine Greening: The tax Information and Impact Note, published alongside Budget 2011 set out the expected impact on affected groups.

It is estimated that a typical Ford Focus driver will be £56 better off in 2011-12 as a result of the fuel duty measures announced in Budget 11. The yearly fuel bill for an average haulier will decrease by over £100 in 2011-12, compared with an increase of almost £1,650 under the previous Government's planned fuel duty escalator.

As set out in Budget documentation, the Government do not expect a significant impact on UK oil and gas investment or production in the forecast period as a consequence of this measure.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 14 February 2011 regarding a constituent, Mr N. Clark. [53288]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 14 February 2011 regarding a constituent Ms M. Burchell. [53290]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of new jobs created to which the national insurance holiday has applied since its inception; [50026]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the national insurance holiday in each year between 2010-11 and 2014-15. [50099]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is as follows:

i. According to the latest data just under 3,000 businesses have benefited from the national insurance contributions (NICs) holiday (up to 28 March 2011). Analysis suggests that on average each business will claim for approximately two employees. This implies that the scheme has supported around 6,000 new jobs.

ii. For 2010-11, current outturn data on registrations and an estimated average benefit of £2,000 per business implies costs of around £5 million to date.

Figures are estimates using assumptions from the Budget 2010 policy costing and are not final. More detail on the assumptions and methodology behind these estimates can be found in the Budget 2010 policy costings note:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf (page 21).

Updated estimates of the total cost of the NICs holiday policy will be published in due course, once end-of-year data are available and emerging evidence from external research on take-up has been fully analysed.

Northern Rock

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of taking Northern Rock into public ownership. [53051]

Mr Hoban: The business of Northern Rock was split between two separate entities, Northern Rock plc and Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc, effective from 1 January 2010. Both companies remain in public ownership at the current time.

As part of the restructuring, the previous Government provided £1.4 billion of capital support to Northern Rock plc; £1.6 billion is available for Northern Rock (Asset Management) should the company need further capital support in the future. In addition, the Government had by January 2010 loaned Northern Rock (Asset Management) a total of £22.8 billion, plus an additional working capital loan facility of £2.5 billion to help with the orderly wind-down of the company.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published an updated estimate of the direct fiscal cost of financial sector interventions on 23 March 2011. On the basis of the current market prices and, where these were not available, on an assessment of the fees and losses associated with the interventions, the estimated eventual benefit to the taxpayer is £3.4 billion.

The recent estimate is based on:

the current market value of the Government's shareholdings in Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group which implies a cost of £1.6 billion related to these investments;

the Asset Protection Agency's (APA) central expectation that there will be no net payouts to RBS under Asset Protection Scheme. Taking into account minimum fees, there is likely to be a net benefit to the taxpayer of at least £5 billion from the APS; and

the expectation that the aggregate costs of all other interventions will not be material after fees, income and recoveries are taken into account.

Revenue and Customs: Corruption

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of corruption involving customs officers which involved illegal drugs there were in each of the last five years. [53426]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

Customs responsibilities at the border moved to the UK Border Agency in August 2009. There have been no cases of corruption involving customs officers (including those who are now UK Border Agency staff) and illegal drugs in the last five years.

Revenue and Customs: Deloitte

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings the Permanent Secretary for Tax in HM Revenue and Customs has had with the Chairman of the UK Board of Partners at Deloitte in each year between 2002 and 2011. [46788]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* There is no information held prior to 1 January 2006.

As head of the tax profession for HMRC, the Permanent Secretary for Tax is responsible for ensuring that key business leaders, accountancy firms and leading tax professionals understand what HMRC expects in terms of tax compliance and administration. As a consequence, he meets a large number of private sector tax leaders on a regular basis which helps him deliver on this commitment. Since 1 January 2006 to the present, he has met the Chairman of the UK Board of Partners at Deloitte on 48 occasions.

Taxation: Child Benefit

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) in which half of the income distribution of UK families a single earner family with two children in receipt of an annual income of £42,500 will fall from April 2013 after implementation of changes to taxation and child benefit; [46681]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentile of income distribution into which a single earner family with three children and in receipt of an annual income of £42,500 will fall from April 2013 after implementation of proposed changes to taxes and child benefit; [46682]

(3) what estimate he has made of the percentile of income distribution into which a single earner family with two children and in receipt of an annual income of £40,000 will fall from April 2013 after implementation of proposed changes to taxes and child benefit. [46683]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* Child benefit will be withdrawn from families containing a higher rate taxpayer from January 2013. Affected families are within the top 20% of the incomes of all families (including those without children).

Taxation: Handbooks

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to resume annual publication of HM Treasury's Tax Benefit Reference Manual or publish in an alternative form the information contained in that document on historic taxes and benefits. [53093]

Mr Gauke: Information on current rates of taxes and benefits is freely available at:

www.direct.gov.uk.

Information on many historic rates can be found on the websites of the relevant Government Departments.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52816]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office does not issue any specific advice to those wishing to work as an intern, undertake work experience or work as a volunteer in this Department. As a small Department of 164 people, the scope for such placements is limited. Any request for a placement is dealt with on a case by case basis.

EDUCATION

Teachers: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what impact assessment has been undertaken of the proposed changes to the Teachers Pension Scheme; and what estimate he has made of the change in the opt-out rate that would result from implementation of the changes. [52273]

Mr Gibb: At the spending review the Government announced changes to the level of employee contribution rates which would lead to total savings of £2.8 billion a year by 2014-15, to be phased in from April 2012. Discussions about how this will be implemented are on-going with unions in the context of wider ranging pension discussions. The Government will put forward proposals in June, and will then begin formal consultation on the necessary changes to scheme regulations.

The Government are committed to protecting low earners and ensuring changes are both sustainable and progressive.

The Treasury published an estimate of likely opt-out rates at the spending review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

This estimate has been scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, and will be reviewed when the Government puts forward final designs.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the changes to the Teachers Pension Scheme are sustainable and progressive; [52274]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed changes to the Teachers Pension Scheme on part-time members of staff who are members of the scheme. [52275]

Mr Gibb: At the spending review the Government announced changes to the level of employee contribution rates which would lead to total savings of £2.8 billion a year by 2014-15, to be phased in from April 2012. Discussions about how this will be implemented are on-going with unions in the context of wider ranging pension discussions. The Government will put forward proposals in June, and will then begin formal consultation on the necessary changes to scheme regulations.

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JUSTICE

Charter of Fundamental Rights: EU

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the Report of the Application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. [52468]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Report on the Application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights was published by the European Commission on 1 April. An explanatory memorandum was deposited in Parliament on 18 April which sets out the Government's assessment of the report. The Government consider that regular review of the application of the Charter is a useful exercise in ensuring that the EU does not breach the rights of individuals and support the clear restatement in the report of the situations in which the Charter applies.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. [52469]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The role of the Fundamental Rights Agency is to provide relevant institutions and authorities of the Union and its member states with assistance and expertise on fundamental rights when implementing Community law, and to support them in taking measures and formulating appropriate courses of action. Through research and analysis it develops comparable data from across the EU on fundamental rights in relation to current policy issues. The Government consider that the agency has carried out thoughtful research and analysis and has played a useful role in publishing comparative data on issues which can often be overlooked.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget is for *(a)* the Legal Services Board, *(b)* the Legal Services Commission, *(c)* the Legal Services Consultative Panel, *(d)* the National Archives, *(e)* the National Offender Management Service, *(f)* the National Probation Service, *(g)* the Northern Ireland Court Service, *(h)* the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission, *(i)* the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission, *(j)* the Offices of Courts Funds, *(k)* the Office of the Information Commissioner, *(l)* the Office of the Judge Advocate, *(m)* the General Office of the Judicial Committee, *(n)* the Office for Judicial Complaints, *(o)* the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman, *(p)* the Office of the Public Guardian, *(q)* the Official Solicitor and Public Trustee, *(r)* the Parole Board, *(s)* the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, *(t)* the Prison Service Pay Review Body, *(u)* the Sentencing Council, *(v)* the Tribunal Procedure Committee, *(w)* the Tribunals Service, *(x)* the Victims Commissioner and *(y)* the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [53341]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Budgets for 2011-12 have now been formally allocated to business groups within the MoJ and future year funding is yet to be approved and allocated.

The following table sets out the resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL) funding allocated in 2011-12.

The DEL funding allocated to MoJ's executive agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is aligned to MoJ's Main Estimate, which was published on 26 April 2011.

£000

Organisation	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Executive agencies				
National Offender Management Service (includes National Probation Service)[1]	3,781,967	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (includes Office of the Judge Advocate)[3]	1,193,674	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Office of the Public Guardian[4]	(500)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Executive NDPBs				
Legal Services Commission	2,251,400	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Parole Board	11,000	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

£000

Organisation	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Office of the Information Commissioner	4,586	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales	379,978	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Legal Services Board[5]	0	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Other bodies[6]				
Tribunal Procedure Committee	11,500	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman	5,546	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	5,200	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Sentencing Council	1,620	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Victims' Commissioner	1,100	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Office for Judicial Complaints	893	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Bodies not funded by MoJ				
Northern Ireland Court Service[7]	Agency of the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland, not the MoJ			
Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission	These sit with Northern Ireland, not the MoJ			
Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission	These sit with Northern Ireland, not the MoJ			
Offices of Court Funds (Court Funds Office)	Funded from interest from the Court Funds Investment Account			
Prison Service Pay Review Body	This sits as part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills			
General Office of the Judicial Committee	No matching body found			
The National Archives	Funded directly by Parliament, not the MoJ			
Legal Services Consultative Panel	Ceased to exist on 1 January 2010			

[1] Estimated funding for the National Probation Service is £822 million.

[2] Not yet allocated.

[3] Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) is an agency of the MoJ, set up from April 2011, establishing a new unified administration of courts and tribunals. Estimated funding for the Office of the Judge Advocate is £1.2 million.

[4] Resource expenditure for the Office of the Public Guardian is estimated at £34.1 million gross. The budget stated in the table is net of £34.6 million of income recovery.

[5] Expenditure for the Legal Services Board is estimated at £5 million gross, which will be met by the same amount of income recovery. The net budget stated is after their income budget from fees and levies on the legal professions has been subtracted from their budgeted expenditure. The budget is DEL neutral.

[6] Funding for the other bodies is broadly agreed and is in the process of being formally allocated.

[7] Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service is an agency of the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland, set up from April 2011, establishing a new unified administration of courts and tribunals.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the possible accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights; and what assessment he has made of the earliest date on which the EU could accede to the Convention. [52476]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Council of the European Union appointed the Commission to negotiate accession on behalf of the EU in June 2010, on the basis of an agreed negotiating mandate. The Commission has since met regularly with a group of experts elected by the member states of the Council of Europe, including one from the United Kingdom, to prepare the accession agreement, including any necessary adaptations to the Convention system. An early draft of the agreement was recently prepared by the Council of Europe Secretariat based on these negotiations, which will now form the basis of further discussions and drafting refinement.

The negotiating group has a mandate to consider this issue until the end of the year. Article 218 (8) of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union states that the European Council's decision concluding this agreement shall enter into force after it has been approved by the member states in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The agreement will also need to be ratified by the members of the Council of Europe. The EU cannot accede to the Convention until all of these steps have been completed so it is not currently possible to provide an accurate estimate of the earliest date for accession.

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reasons are for the difference in time taken compared to the previously published timetable for the announcement of the successful provider in the bid to co-ordinate support services for adult victims of trafficking; and when he plans to make this announcement. [52826]

Mr Blunt: The launch on 15 December 2010 of the procurement process to select an organisation to co-ordinate and contract for support services for adult victims of human trafficking saw the release of a number of supporting documents, including a potential timetable for the process. The actual time taken over the course of the procurement process was slightly longer than outlined in this provisional timetable as it included:

i. additional time for the development of the final service specification, which was informed by information and views put forth by bidders at the open dialogue stage of the process;

ii. additional time for bidders to write and submit their final bids; and

iii. additional time for the evaluation of bids.

All bidders were informed of any changes to the timetable as and when they occurred. Bidders were notified of the outcome of the procurement process on 11 April 2011.

Legal Aid

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people used the telephone to access legal aid advice in 2010-11. [53342]

Mr Djanogly: Community Legal Advice provided over 389,000 acts of assistance in 2010-11. Of this, specialist telephone advisers provided nearly 125,000 acts of assistance, and over 264,000 enquiries were closed at the triage stage by the operator service resolving the issue to the clients' satisfaction or referring them to a local face-to-face provider or alternative helpline. These figures have not yet been audited. Final figures will be reported in the Legal Services Commission's Annual Report and Accounts for 2010-11.

Sentencing

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many custodial sentences of *(a)* one month or less, *(b)* two months and *(c)* three months are being served by women prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [52264]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of female prisoners serving short sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales, as at 31 December 2010, broken down by detailed sentence length band.

Sentence length	*Number of female prisoners*
Less than or equal to one month	12
More than one month up to and including two months	42
More than two months up to and including three months	89
More than three months up to and including six months	251
Unrecorded less than or equal to six months[1]	16
Total less than or equal to six months[1]	410

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[1] Detailed sentence length breakdown is not recorded centrally for this group These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how he plans to monitor progress in the delivery of high speed broadband services across the UK. [52629]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has identified a set of indicators addressing the four themes of coverage: take-up, speed, price and choice. BDUK is consulting with industry on the proposed indicators via the Broadband Stakeholder Group and will publish the framework on its website in due course.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to make a decision on the future ownership of the Tote. [53311]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government hope to conclude the final stages of the process for resolving the future of the Tote and to announce the outcome later in the spring in line with the timetable set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Budget 2011.

PRIME MINISTER

Tony Blair

Mr Amess: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what Government facilities have been made available to Tony Blair at his request since June 2007; what the cost has been for each facility; and if he will make a statement; [50304]

(2) what funds the Government has provided to Tony Blair since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [50305]

The Prime Minister: As a former Prime Minister, Mr Blair is entitled to claim the Public Duties Cost Allowance.

The Office of the Middle East Quartet Representative is supported by civil service secondees paid for by their sponsor Department. The Office also received a £400,000 contribution from the Department for International Development in August 2007 to support the setting-up of its office in Jerusalem. UK embassies also occasionally provide practical support to Mr Blair overseas in order to facilitate the effective execution of his duties as Quartet Representative.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Earthquakes

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what emergency relief he has provided to people affected by the earthquake in Shan State, Burma. [53075]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has consulted closely with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on the ground in the area of Shan State struck by an earthquake on 24 March 2011. DFID carefully considered the case for emergency aid and concluded that most immediate critical needs were being met adequately by the Burmese authorities along with other donors including UN agencies, international and local NGOs, neighbouring countries and the private sector.

DFID will continue to keep the humanitarian situation in Burma closely under review. Over the next four years DFID will provide £185 million for the Burmese people, working through UN agencies and NGOs and focusing on health, education, livelihoods, civil society and people affected by conflict.

Departmental Accountancy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any ministerial directions have been issued to the accounting officer of his Department since his appointment. [51992]

Mr Duncan: There have been no ministerial directions issued since the Secretary of State's appointment.

EU Aid

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had at EU level on improving the effectiveness and value for money of the EU development budget. [51821]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development discussed improving the effectiveness and value for money of the EU Development Budget at an informal meeting of European Development Ministers on 22 February 2011. He stressed the importance of transparency and the need to focus on results. Issues raised in the Multilateral Aid Review were covered and the findings of the Review with regard to EU assistance were welcomed by many member states' colleagues and by the European Commission.

Ivory Coast: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Ivory Coast; and if he will make a statement. [52841]

Mr O'Brien: The humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire remains critical. Food, water and sanitation, urgent medical care, the protection of civilians and shelter for some 800,000 displaced and those communities affected by the conflict are needed. Over 150,000 people have now crossed the border to seek refuge in neighbouring Liberia. While some have started to return to their homes, it is anticipated that significant numbers of refugees will remain in Liberia for as much as a year.

Britain has already announced significant support and is contributing substantially to the humanitarian response in both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, making the UK the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor. Last month's emergency aid package of support in Côte d'Ivoire alone is helping to provide food for some 17,000 displaced Ivoirians and host villages, as well as safe clean drinking water, shelter, medical treatment and household items to over 10,000 people.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Offices

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 150W, on departmental offices, for what reasons he proposes to collect hard evidence relevant to his Department's activities through regional offices; and what consideration he has given to the central collection of such evidence. [51629]

Mr Prisk: A key role of the Department's officials based throughout the country will be to gather timely intelligence of local economic conditions. As these officials are located across the country, they will collect information which may not be apparent to the Department's London-based officials. Further, they will be able to interpret any information more readily using their better knowledge of the local economic environment.

The Department is also working to develop a capacity to collect information on current business conditions across the country which will be co-ordinated centrally where that is appropriate. This capacity will include a regular national business survey which should be able to track changes in business conditions over time at sub-national levels. These survey results will be shared with local partners, such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and local authorities, as well as being made publicly available. The Department has just started a procurement process to identify a supplier; a supplier should be in place by this summer.

EU External Trade: India

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential economic benefits to the UK of a Free Trade Agreement between India and the EU. [53343]

Mr Prisk: The UK strongly supports an ambitious EU-India free trade agreement (FTA). The European Commission's Sustainability impact assessment estimates that the EU as a whole could gain €4.4 billion in the short run and €1.6 billion in the long run. Once negotiations are concluded, it will be possible to estimate more accurately the potential gains to the EU and to the UK.

Post Offices

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on staffing levels in field change teams; and if he will make a statement. [53057]

Mr Davey: No such discussions have taken place as staffing levels in field change teams and across the business are operational matters for Post Office Ltd.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were employed by Post Office Ltd in its field change teams working directly on ongoing or temporary closures and other local network issues on *(a)* 1 March 2010 and *(b)* 1 March 2011. [53058]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Post Offices: Closures

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Post Office branches have been subject to long-term temporary closure since May 2010. [51207]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Public Expenditure

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the staff *(a)* costs and *(b)* complement of his Department, its agencies and its associated public bodies over the spending review period [51583]

Mr Davey: The administration budget for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will reduce by 40% over the spending review, including a saving of up to £228 million in admin costs as a result of the abolition of the RDAs.

BIS is also undertaking an ambitious programme of arm's length bodies reform bringing the total number down from 57 to 33, with nine continuing under review and corporate service reform across the entire BIS network, which will cover estates, ICT, HR, finance and procurement functions in many BIS partner organisations.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, National Measurement Office, Intellectual Property Office, Skills Funding Agency and the UK Space Agency and they will respond to the right hon. Member directly.

Information on the Department's NDPBs is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Dr David Williams:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking what estimate he has made of the staff (a) costs of and (b) complement of his Department, its agencies and its associated public bodies over the Spending Review period.

For the UK Space Agency the current estimate of staff numbers is 40 full time post equivalents, with an estimated cost of £9.3m over the Spending Review period.

The agency has a number of vacancies, and has yet to factor in the admin cost reductions during the Spending Review. The numbers above are the best estimates and include posts transferred into the Agency and the vacancies.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 21 April 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 1 April 2011 reference 2010/4977 to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking about estimates of staff costs of and complement over the Spending Review period.

The National Measurement Office has made the following estimates of staff costs and complement for the next four years. This information is also published in our Corporate Plan which is available on our website. These costs and complement encompass all the entirety of the Agency's activities, not all of which are paid for by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

	Staff costs (£000)	*Complement (FTE)*
2011-12	3,478	72
2012-13	3,555	74
2013-14	3,675	76
2014-15	3,616	73

Letter from John Alty, dated 21 April 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 1st April 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office, which as a Trading Fund does not receive direct government funding, expects to have the following staff numbers and pay costs over the five year period.

	£ million[1]	*Numbers*[2]
2011-12	35.7	878
2012-13	36.7	866
2013-14	37.4	867
2014-15	38.2	867
2015-16	38.9	867

[1] Pay, NI, Supan.

[2] Full time equivalent.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 13 April 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what estimate he has made of the staff (a) costs of and (b) complement of his Department, its agencies and its associated public bodies over the Spending Review period.

For 2011-12 the Insolvency Service currently has indicative figures for staff costs and complement as indicated in the table below. However, The Service is a demand-led organisation, and should case numbers rise or fall outside of current forecasts then the staffing requirement could be significantly different from that shown here. For this reason, and because The Service does not have funding allocations for future years, we are unable to provide firm figures for 2012-15.

	2010-11	*2011-12*
Costs (£)	88,372,000	71,032,000
FTE	2,525	2,050

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 6 April 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 1 April 2011, UIN 4977 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Over the Spending Review period Companies House has plans to reduce staff cost by around five million pounds from the present level, this will mean a reduction in staff complement of between 200 and 250 staff.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 12 April 2011:

Thank you for your parliamentary question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking what estimate the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) has made of its staff (a) costs and (b) complement over the Spending Review period.

Please be advised:

(a) the baseline staff cost was £101m (including on-costs) at the inception of the Agency on 1 April 2010 and has been reduced to an estimated £87m for the 2011-12 financial year. It is estimated that the staff cost will be reduced further to £66m by the end of the current Spending review period; and

(b) the staff headcount at the inception of the Agency on 1 April 2010 was 1,896 (1,839 FTE) and the current staff headcount is 1,635 (1,590 FTE) at the start of the 2011-12 financial year. The Agency is working towards an establishment FTE of 1,264 by the end of the current Spending Review period.

University and Business Partnerships

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings he has had with external bodies to discuss university and business partnerships in 2011-12 and 2012-13 in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [51473]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my ministerial colleagues and I have had regular meetings with representatives from business and higher education. This Government recognise the importance of university and business partnerships and have discussed this topic in a number of these meetings. Reforms to higher education innovation funding will provide greater incentives for higher education institutes to increase interaction with business and other users.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Earthquakes

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent earthquake in Shan State, Burma. [53074]

Mr Jeremy Browne: An earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale struck the Thai/Burma/Laos border area on 24 March 2011. There are reports that about 75 Burmese people died and a further 125 were injured. About 18,000 were affected in the area of the earthquake and infrastructure in Shan State was badly damaged. The relief effort continues and is focused on health, shelter and water and sanitation needs. Approximately £2 million has been contributed or pledged by bilateral donors, the private sector, individuals and other organisations. Department for International Development officials are in close contact with UN agencies and non-governmental organisations working on the ground and have assessed that immediate critical needs are being adequately met.

Burma: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether staff from the British embassy in Burma have visited Kachin State in the last 12 months. [53071]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Staff from our embassy in Rangoon most recently travelled to Kachin State in February and April 2011 to visit health care and conservation projects that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is funding. Officials also met local people to discuss issues connected with the construction of the Myitsone dam.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of forced relocation of ethnic Kachin people in advance of the construction of the Myitsone dam in Burma. [53072]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government remain deeply concerned about the impact on human rights and on the environment of the construction of the Myitsone dam. Officials from our embassy in Rangoon visited Kachin state in February and April and met people in the affected area. Our embassy is in regular contact with local and international organisations working to highlight the social and environmental consequences of the dam's construction. We understand that construction of the dam, and extensive logging in the area, may mean that 15,000 Kachin villagers are relocated against their will to areas that will not support their livelihoods. We urge those involved in the dam's construction to apply the highest standards of corporate social responsibility and ensure that their investment benefits Burma's people.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Indian Government on the detention of democracy activists from Karen and Rakhine State in Burma. [53073]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We understand from non-governmental organisation (NGO) sources that 34 Burmese ethnic activists may have spent the past 13 years in prison in India following allegations of gun running. NGO reports suggest that the charges against them were dropped last year but that the group remain in detention while the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees considers granting them refugee status. We are also aware of NGO reports that allege that the authorities may be seeking to deport them. Our high commission in New Delhi drew these reports to the attention of the Chief Secretary of West Bengal last November. We will continue to follow up with the Indian authorities.

Columbia: Politics and Government

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his Colombian counterpart for an investigation into the recent assassination attempt made against Henry Gordon. [52714]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We understand that on 14 January 2011 two gunmen intercepted Henry Gordon's car in a notoriously dangerous sector of Colombia. It is not clear whether this was an assassination attempt or an attempted robbery, so we have not made representations to the Colombian Government in this case.

However, we will continue to monitor Mr Gordon's case and raise the matter with the Colombian Government should it prove necessary.

Columbia: Prisoners

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Colombian counterpart on the imprisonment of Aracely Canaveral Velez. [52713]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Staff at our embassy in Bogotá have made representations to the Vice President's Office in the case of Aracely Canaveral Velez. I am aware that she was arrested on 17 January 2011, and has been charged with aggravated conspiracy and drug trafficking. She is currently being held in Cartagena, a trial date has not yet been set.

We raise our human rights concerns regularly with senior members of the Colombian Government. Most recently, I raised our human rights concerns with the Colombian Vice Minister for Defence Yaneth Giha or 11 January 2011 and Deputy Foreign Minister Patti Londoño on 26 January 2011 and discussed ways in which the UK can support efforts to improve the situation in Colombia.

We continue to underline to the Colombian authorities that those charged with crimes should have their legal rights fully respected, including to a fair and efficient trial, but we cannot interfere in Colombia's judicial process.

Columbia: Trade Unions

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of trade unionists killed in Colombia in 2010. [52712]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government of Colombia have stated that 37 trade unionists were killed in Colombia last year, while the trade unionist organisation, Escuela Nacional Sindical, reports that 35 trade unionists were killed in 2010.

We continue to urge the Colombian Government to provide greater protection for human rights defenders, including trade unionists, and to work with the unions and employee organisations to strengthen labour relations in Colombia.

We raise human rights issues regularly with senior members of the Colombian Government. Most recently, I met the Colombian Vice Minister for Defence Yaneth Giha on 11 January 2011 and the Colombian Deputy Foreign Minister Patti Londoño on 26 January 2011. During these meetings I raised our human rights concerns and discussed ways in which the UK can support Colombian efforts to improve the situation.

Mexico: Human Rights

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of clauses on human rights and democracy in the free trade agreement between the EU and Mexico. [53081]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The free trade agreement between the EU and Mexico includes a human rights clause as an essential element of the agreement, meaning that a breach of the clause can lead to the agreement's suspension. While there are ongoing human rights issues in Mexico, we work closely with the Mexican authorities to address them. We do not currently consider it necessary to invoke this clause.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of implementation in Mexico of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. [53103]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In order to implement effectively the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, EU missions and the EU Delegation in Mexico have:

(a) established regional working groups that cover all Mexican states and organised several visits to follow up on specific cases and meet local authorities, local non-governmental organisations (including human rights defenders) and state level human rights commissions where appropriate;

(b) discussed protection measures for various human rights defenders with the Minister responsible for human rights;

(c) raised specific cases in the EU-Mexico annual human rights dialogue;

(d) issued Heads of Mission statements following serious incidents and attacks against human rights defenders.

We continue to be actively involved in this work.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the involvement of local non-governmental organisations in Mexico in the development of local implementation strategies for the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. [53104]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In order to involve local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the development of implementation strategies, EU mission delegations in Mexico have informally consulted them on the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. The regional working groups established to support implementation strategies also meet with local NGOs regularly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department spent on administering disability living allowance under the gateway for the benefit in the last 12 months. [52938]

Maria Miller: We are not able to say how much funding the Department spent on administering disability living allowance under the gateway for the benefit in the last 12 months.

This is because our Management System does not provide this level of detail. We are able to tell you that the cost of administering disability living allowance, excluding corporate and shared services and investments, for the last 12 months (April 2010 to March 2011) was £134 million.

Notes:

1. The figure is rounded to the nearest million;

2. These are the latest data that are currently available and are subject to year end accounting adjustments and final audit.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Activity Based Management System 2010-11

Carer's Allowance

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many carers receive Carer's Allowance for looking after a person who receives the *(a)* middle rate and *(b)* higher rate care component of disability living allowance. [52939]

Maria Miller: The National Statistics datasets on carer's allowance do not contain any information on the identity or characteristics of the person being cared for. Similarly, the National Statistics datasets on disability living allowance claimants do not contain any information on the identity or characteristics of any person caring for the claimant. Some early analysis has been undertaken to use additional information to link the two datasets, but to quality assure the results to the standard required for parliamentary questions would incur disproportionate costs.

Child Maintenance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the performance of Vertex in delivery of the administration child maintenance payments; and if he will make a statement. [53063]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment he has made of the performance of Vertex in delivery of the administration of the child maintenance payments; and if he will make a statement. [53063]

Vertex Data Science Ltd manages cases on behalf of the Child Support Agency that for technical reasons cannot be progressed on our primary computer system (CS2). These are known as "off-system" cases.

The performance of Vertex Data Science Ltd is measured on a monthly basis against a range of commercially agreed targets and client service standards. These align closely to those of the Child Support Agency and are reviewed formally through monthly and quarterly governance arrangements. In addition, the supplier is encouraged through the contract payment mechanisms, to ensure that all targets and client service standards are achieved or exceeded.

The Commission continues to work closely with the supplier to improve client service and efficiency which has resulted in some key improvements. As a result more than 74,000 children, whose cases are managed off of the main computer system, benefited from more than £98 million of child maintenance collected and arranged in the year to 31 March 2011. This represents an increase of 29% in child maintenance collected and arranged to that achieved during 2009/10.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees at each Civil Service grade are employed at his Department's offices in *(a)* Norcross, *(b)* Warbreck House and *(c)* Bispham. [52936]

Chris Grayling: The number of individual employees, in each grade, employed at Norcross and at Warbreck Hill are in the following table.

The figures are as at the end of December 2010 this being the date of the latest Public Sector Employment Statistics published by the Office for National Statistics.

The Department does not employ any staff at Bispham.

Grade	*Norcross*	*Warbreck House*
Administration Assistant	37	346
Administration Officer	274	1,192
Executive Officer	442	841
Higher Executive Officer	365	81
Senior Executive Officer	203	16
Grade 7 (Principal Officer)	100	5
Grade 6 (Senior Principal Officer)	44	7
Senior Civil Service	10	1
Total	1,475	2,489

Note:
Figures are staff in post ie individuals

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely change in expenditure on contributory employment and support allowance as a result of limiting payments to 12 months in each of the first three years of the limitation; and if he will estimate the equivalent figures if the time limit were set at *(a)* six months, *(b)* two years, *(c)* three years and *(d)* four years. [53199]

Maria Miller: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill, we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG).

In the Welfare Reform Bill the time limit for contributory ESA claimants in the WRAG has been set at 12 months. The following table details the annual savings arising from the 12 month time limit and the other time limits requested. The savings include reductions to expenditure on contributory ESA net of expected costs to income-related ESA and other DWP administered benefits and are measured against a baseline forecast of the contributory ESA expenditure without time limiting.

		Savings		*£ million*
Scenario	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Welfare Reform Bill: 1 year time limit	0	400	800	1,100
6 month time limit	0	700	1,050	1,400
2 year time limit	0	150	350	650
3 year time limit	0	50	150	300
4 year time limit	0	0	50	100

Figures are in cash terms, and are for Great Britain. They are rounded to the nearest £50 million.

Employment Schemes

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking in relation to the involvement in the work programme of those organisations which did not gain prime contractor status. [52673]

Chris Grayling: All future welfare to work requirements, including the Work Programme will be delivered via a framework agreement and details of the organisations which have been selected onto the framework can be found under preferred suppliers on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website.

Providers not successful as a prime supplier for the Work Programme remain on the framework and will still be invited to tender for future welfare to work provision. Some providers unsuccessful as primes may be part of another's supply chain as a Work Programme sub-contractor.

On 1 April 2011 DWP published the list of preferred suppliers for Work Programme contracts. Contact details for the prime suppliers will be published when post tender discussions have concluded and contracts have been signed for those providers interested in becoming involved in the future delivery of the Work Programme.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the criteria for the award of Work Programme contracts in Scotland took account of levels of experience in dealing with people most disadvantaged in the labour market. [52674]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) assessed all tenders for the Work Programme mini competitions from the framework for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services against the published evaluation criteria. This was based both on quality and financial aspects of the tenders. The evaluation was conducted without prejudice based entirely on the evidence contained within the tenders. The preferred bidders were publicly announced on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender in each contract package area, i.e. that which, in the opinion of DWP, offered the best combination of quality, financial capacity and acceptable level of risk.

Within the evaluation process, there was clear focus on the supply chain. Prime providers were required to state how they will work with sub-contractors to ensure the needs of all the hardest to help customers are fully addressed. In addition to ensuring that the customer journey is tailored to meet an individual's specific needs taking into account local considerations to meet the needs of customers within the contract package area.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether housing benefit restrictions will apply to tenants deemed to be under-occupying their social rented accommodation where they are in work but retaining some housing benefit entitlement. [52463]

Steve Webb: We intend that the restrictions for under occupancy will apply to social sector tenants of working age receiving housing benefit whether or not they are in employment.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed by Jobcentre Plus in each *(a)* office, *(b)* London borough and *(c)* region on (i) 6 April 2010 and (ii) 6 April 2011. [53109]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Matthew Nicholas:

The Secretary of State has asked Darra Singh to reply to your question asking how many staff were employed by Jobcentre Plus in each a) office; b) London Borough; and c) region on i) 6 April 2010 and ii) 6 April 2011. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

Due to the level of information requested, the information has been placed in the Library. The information is drawn from our payroll system. The figures are in Full Time Equivalents and, where appropriate, have been rounded to the nearest whole number. They cover the Jobcentre Plus operation in London. The dates that have been used are 31 March 2010 and 31 December 2010. The latter represents the latest date for which published information is available.

Jobcentre Plus: Temporary Employment

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Jobcentre Plus staff on a fixed-term contract have had their contract extended in March or April 2011 in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* region; [53107]

(2) what the average length was of fixed-term contract extensions offered to Jobcentre Plus staff in March and April 2011 in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* region. [53110]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to reply to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Matthew Nicholas:

The Secretary of State has asked Darra Singh to reply to your questions regarding how many Jobcentre Plus staff on a fixed-term contract have had their contract extended in March or April 2011 in each (a) London borough and (b) region and what the average length was of fixed-term contract extensions offered to Jobcentre Plus staff in March and April 2011 in each (a) London borough and (b) region. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

The details requested are not available by individual London borough. The information that is available is detailed in the table below.

In total 246 employees have had their contract of employment extended during March to April 11.

London district	*London local authority borough*	*Number FTA extended March and April 2011*	*Average length of extension (months)*
East London	Hackney	12	4
	Newham		
	Tower Hamlets		

London district	*London local authority borough*	*Number FTA extended March and April 2011*	*Average length of extension (months)*
	Barking		
	Dagenham		
	Havering		
	Redbridge		
	Waltham Forest		
North London	Barnet	50	6
	Enfield		
	Haringey		
	Camden		
	Westminster		
	Islington		
	Kensington and Chelsea		
South London	Bexley	39	4
	Bromley		
	Croydon		
	Greenwich		
	Lewisham		
	Merton		
	Sutton		
	Lambeth		
	Southwark		
West London	Brent	145	6
	Ealing		
	Hammersmith and Fulham		
	Harrow		
	Hillingdon		
	Hounslow		
	Richmond upon Thames		
	Kingston upon Thames		
	Wandsworth		
London total		246	5.6

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed on a fixed-term appointment in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* region between April 2009 and April 2010. [53108]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Matthew Nicholas:

The Secretary of State has asked Darra Singh to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed on a fixed term appointment in each a) London borough; and b) region between April 2009 and April 2010. This is something that, falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

The information set out in the table below. The figures are in Full Time Equivalents and, where appropriate, have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

London boroughs	*Fixed-term appointments*
Barking and Dagenham	39
Barnet	34
Bexley	32
Brent	48
Bromley	23
Camden	44
Croydon	50
Ealing	47
Enfield	65
Greenwich	37
Hackney	82
Hammersmith and Fulham	66
Haringey	56
Harrow	26
Havering	31
Hillingdon	39
Hounslow	24
Islington	79
Kensington and Chelsea	19
Kingston upon Thames	20

London boroughs	*Fixed-term appointments*
Lambeth	54
Lewisham	58
Merton	9
Newham	71
Redbridge	59
Richmond upon Thames	18
Southwark	21
Sutton	25
Tower Hamlets	72
Waltham Forest	74
Wandsworth	5
Westminster	53
London region total	1,380

Source:
Dataview IT payroll system

Mortgages: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in St Albans constituency received support for mortgage interest payments in each of the last five years. [52125]

Steve Webb: The information requested on pension credit (PC), income support (IS) and jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants receiving help with mortgage interest in St Albans parliamentary constituency is provided in the following table.

PC, IS, JSA claimants receiving mortgage interest

	Numbers[1]
August 2006	200
August 2007	200
August 2008	100
August 2009	200
May 2010	200

[1] These numbers are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation, therefore these figures should be used as a guide only.

Notes:

1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are based on 5% sample data. All figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Caseload figures have been uprated by using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) data.
4. Figures provided are a point in time estimate at August in each year 2006 to 2009. Due to a problem with the latest data for August 2010, which is being investigated, we have provided data for May 2010 until this is resolved.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples.

Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the average pension for an individual with average earnings of *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* £15,000, *(c)* £25,000, *(d)* £35,000 and *(e)* 45,000 with (i) 30 years and (ii) 40 years of full contributions who retires in (A) 2011, (B) 2016, (C) 2020, (D) 2025 and (E) 2050. [53094]

Steve Webb: The table gives estimates of the weekly gross state pension entitlements of hypothetical individuals with different lifetime earnings profiles and numbers of qualifying years for the basic state pension.

The hypothetical individuals presented are assumed to be male, and to begin employment aged 25. They are assumed to work continuously for 30 or 40 years, and then remain inactive until they reach state pension age. Each individual's annual gross earnings are assumed to be flat across their working life, when expressed in 2011-12 earnings terms. So an individual with average earnings of £10,000 is assumed to earn £10,000 in each year of employment.

These hypothetical individuals are purely illustrative; they are not representative of the general population. In reality, people will have more complex and varied histories of national insurance contributions and credits, resulting in more varied state pension outcomes.

Gross state pension entitlement refers to an individual's full weekly entitlement deriving from national insurance contributions, before any deductions have been made due to periods spent in contracted-out employment. Individuals who have been in contracted-out employment will receive some of their entitlement from their private pension schemes when they retire, instead of from the Government. Therefore, the state pension they receive from the Government will be lower than illustrated in this table.

The Government are currently consulting on two options for state pension reform for future pensioners, as set out in the consultation paper "A state pension for the 21st Century" published on 4 April 2011. The Government have made clear that contributions to the current system will be honoured under any new state pension arrangements.

Estimated weekly gross state pension entitlement, by gross earnings, number of qualifying years towards the basic state pension, and year of state pension age (£ per week, 2011-12 earnings terms, in year reaches state pension age)

£

	Number of qualifying years towards basic state pension									
	30					*40*				
	Year reaches state pension age					*Year reaches state pension age*				
Average gross earnings over working life (£ per year, 2011-12 earnings terms)	*2011*	*2016*	*2020*	*2025*	*2050*	*2011*	*2016*	*2020*	*2025*	*2050*
£10,000	114	120	123	126	148	134	137	138	141	163
£15,000	129	133	134	134	148	150	150	150	149	164
£25,000	159	161	160	153	157	186	183	180	173	172
£35,000	190	190	186	174	162	224	217	210	196	177

Estimated weekly gross state pension entitlement, by gross earnings, number of qualifying years towards the basic state pension, and year of state pension age (£ per week, 2011-12 earnings terms, in year reaches state pension age)

£

	Number of qualifying years towards basic state pension									
	30					*40*				
	Year reaches state pension age					*Year reaches state pension age*				
Average gross earnings over working life (£ per year, 2011-12 earnings terms)	*2011*	*2016*	*2020*	*2025*	*2050*	*2011*	*2016*	*2020*	*2025*	*2050*
£45,000	215	214	207	189	164	255	243	233	211	179

Notes:

1. Amounts are rounded to the nearest £1.
2. State pension here includes the basic state pension and the additional state pension, where the latter includes entitlement built up under the state earnings related pension scheme and the state second pension, but excludes graduated retirement benefit.
2. Figures are entitlements in the years individuals reach state pension age.
3. Figures are in 2011-12 earnings terms.
4. Figures exclude additional amounts payable due to individuals choosing to defer claiming their state pension.
5. Figures include entitlements deriving from own national insurance contribution records only.
6. The individuals are assumed to be male (this only affects the calculations during the period in which the equalisation of state pension age occurs).
7. Calculations use the Office for Budget Responsibility's economic forecasts for the March 2011 Budget, available at: http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-march-2011/
8. Figures ignore entitlement due to home responsibilities protection or national insurance credits.
9. Figures exclude income from means-tested benefits.
10. More information on the concept of gross state pension entitlement, as opposed to net entitlement, is available at: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/gross_state_pension_entitlement.pdf

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions estimates

Social Security Benefits

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the prices charged by undertakers who accept payments from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [53052]

Steve Webb: The funeral payment scheme provides a payment towards the cost of a simple, respectful, low cost funeral. The scheme covers the necessary costs of burial or cremation in full. A significant contribution is also made towards the fee levied by funeral directors, currently set at £700.

We have no plans to review the prices charged by undertakers.

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households entitled to *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit also received assistance with childcare costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [52514]

Steve Webb: Information on housing benefit and council tax recipients who are also receiving assistance with childcare costs is not available.

The Department does collect information on the amount of child care disregard allowed on the housing benefit/council tax benefit data source (SHBE) but to assess the completeness of recording and quality assure the figures would incur disproportionate cost.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to bring forward proposals to shorten the time taken for a decision to be made on an appeal lodged against the outcome of a work capability assessment; and if he will make a statement. [53053]

Chris Grayling: The Department and the Ministry of Justice have been working together to improve the appeals process.

In 2010 Jobcentre Plus and Her Majesty's Court and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) piloted improvements to the appeals process for employment and support allowance (ESA) and income support. Following this, Jobcentre Plus implemented a new approach which involves direct telephone contact with ESA customers, to identify any other information that may be relevant and explain how decisions have been arrived at. This was fully rolled out nationally for all benefits by 1 November 2010.

The aim of the improved process is to enable more disputes to be resolved internally, which in turn will allow for more appeals to be cleared without the need to send to HMCTS for hearings.

The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Work and Pensions are also working together as part of a Task Force with HMCTS, Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service. The Task Force is working on two broad fronts. The first is to reduce the number of appeals arising from initial decision making. The second is to increase capacity within HMCTS.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken was between the submission of an appeal against the outcome of a work capability assessment with Jobcentre Plus and a decision on that appeal being made at a tribunal in each year since the employment and support allowance was instituted. [53196]

Chris Grayling: Information on the average time taken for handling employment and support allowance (ESA) appeals is not available. While the Department for

Work and Pensions does not publish such figures. Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) does hold data on the average time taken to clear an ESA appeal. This is taken from date of receipt at HMCTS to final promulgation of the First-tier Tribunal decision. The data are provided in the following table:

Employment support allowance (work capability assessment): Cases cleared in the periods specified[1]

	Average time in weeks from receipt of appeal in HMCTS to outcome
October 2008 to March 2009	1.92
April 2009 to March 2010	12.64
April 2010 to February 2011	19.40

[1] Employment and support allowance was introduced 27 October 2008.

Note:

The first disposed appeals against work capability assessments were in January 2009. It is important to note that these were not heard by a tribunal (as they were "non hearing clearances", i.e. they were withdrawn, superseded or struck out cases); this explains why the clearance times were considerably lower in the first reported period.

TRANSPORT

Driving Offences: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what revenue was collected through speed camera penalty charge notices in *(a)* St Albans constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [52118]

Mike Penning: Following the ending of the National Safety Camera Funding Scheme in 2007, all fixed penalty income, whether or not the offence was detected by camera, goes to the Consolidated Fund.

Data on the number of fixed penalties issued and paid per year for all motoring offences and separately on all speeding offences detected by camera are collected centrally and published as part of National Statistics. These are outlined in detail within Chapter 3 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: "Police Powers and Procedures". Sections 3.3 and 3.4 deal respectively with fixed penalty notices generally and notices issued on the basis of speed camera evidence respectively.

The latest publication outlines data for the financial year 2009-10 as well as making reference to historical data. This was published on the 14 April.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0711/hosb0711?view=Binary

Electric Vehicles: Subsidies

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many payments his Department has made to provide a subsidy for the sale of electric-powered motor vehicles to date. [52202]

Norman Baker: Between 1 January 2011, when the Plug-In Car Grant commenced, and 20 April 2011, 534 cars have been registered to receive a grant (for which payments are being processed). 213 of these cars have been delivered to customers. Of the 534 cars, 465 cars were ordered within the first quarter of 2011. This figure will be updated and published on a quarterly basis.

In addition to the Plug-In Car Grant, the Government have supported the following:

283 ultra low emission vehicles put on the road through the Technology Strategy Board's ultra low carbon vehicle demonstration programme;

201 low carbon and all electric vans placed in public sector fleets through the Low Carbon Vans Public Procurement Programme; and

£46.8 million to local authorities and bus operators to assist them in purchasing 526 hybrid-electric and 16 all-electric buses.

Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of annual passenger numbers travelling between *(a)* London and Birmingham, *(b)* London and Leeds and *(c)* London and Manchester. [46178]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport itself has made no estimates of the number of passenger journeys made between these cities.

However, figures published by HS2 Ltd give passenger numbers per weekday to and from central London and Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds in 2008.

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110131042819/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/demandandappraisal/pdf/report.pdf

Figures from the Civil Aviation Authority show that in 2010 1,047,000 passengers flew between the five main London airports and Manchester airport and 51,000 between London and Leeds-Bradford airport. There were no scheduled passenger flights between London and Birmingham airport.

Railways: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what equality impact assessment he undertook in making his decision to suspend funding for local rail projects. [45238]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not suspended funding for local rail projects. A number of schemes have been included within the Local Transport Major Schemes 'Development Pool' including the Croxley Rail Link and a package of rail improvements in and around Leeds and Coventry to Nuneaton, alongside a number of other light rail and other public transport schemes. Final decisions on all these schemes will be taken in December.

Promoters of local rail projects can also bid for funding from the local sustainable transport fund and regional growth fund.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* full train length equivalent diagrams and *(b)* carriages will be built for (i) Crossrail, (ii) Thameslink, (iii) the Intercity Express Programme and (iv) other rail services in each of the next 10 years. [46338]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested is in the following table.

	Number of vehicles	Approximate number of diagrams
Thameslink	[1]1,200	106
Intercity Express Programme	[1]600	100
Crossrail	[1]600	57
West Coast	106	—
National Express East Anglia	120	27
London Midland	69	24
Chiltern	8	3
TPE	36	8

[1] Around

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects existing Intercity diesel units to have been withdrawn from the rail network. [45247]

Mrs Villiers: Subject to the Government continuing to be satisfied that the proposal offers value for money, the first phase of the Intercity Express Programme will see withdrawal of the East Coast Intercity 125 trains, and almost all of the Great Western Intercity 125 trains by the end of 2018. Some existing stock is expected to remain in service to operate services to Penzance via the Cornish Main Line.

These trains are owned by private rolling stock companies and leased to train operating companies. Some of the trains may be released from the Great Western and East Coast lines on other franchises, and on non-franchised operations, or may remain as reserve stock until the expiry of existing leases in 2019.

The replacement of the remainder of the trains on Great Western remains a priced option within the procurement.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Products: Clones

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of her Department is on the sale of meat and milk products from the offspring of cloned animals. [50921]

Mr Paice: The European Commission and other member states do not consider that food from an animal descended from a clone falls within the scope of existing legislation on novel foods, which would require pre-market authorisation. The Food Standards Agency is considering results from a recent consultation before deciding whether to adopt the Commission's position and expects to make an announcement shortly.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of her Department is on the introduction of a traceability scheme for meat and milk products from the offspring of cloned animals. [50923]

Mr Paice: There is no traceability system that can be applied to either imported or home produced products from descendants of clones. A requirement to identify all descendants of clones worldwide would be impractical and unenforceable. The European Food Safety Authority, the UK's Food Standards Agency and the UK's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes have all concluded that meat and milk from healthy cloned cattle and pigs and their descendants is as safe as that from traditionally bred animals. This means that the cost of attempting to introduce such a system, which could not deal with imported food or with food derived from descendants of clones already present in the EU, cannot be justified.

If some parts of industry wish to set up their own systems for traceability and labelling they are of course free to do so, providing that they carry out the necessary checks to justify any claims that they make.

Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to announce the Government's response to the Radcliffe recommendations on animal health policy in England. [52897]

Mr Paice: On 13 December 2010, the Advisory Group on Responsibility and Cost Sharing, independently chaired by Rosemary Radcliffe, published its report.

I announced in a written ministerial statement (WMS 67) on 26 April 2011, *Official Report,* columns 3-4WS, that the Government are setting up a new Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE). The proposal for the Board has been developed, taking account of the recommendations in the Advisory Group report. This fulfils a Business Plan commitment to:

> "Set out plans on animal disease responsibility sharing by April 2011".

Bees: Pesticides

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the pesticide approved regime in relation to neonicotinoid pesticides. [52167]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* Pesticides are only approved if a thorough scientific risk assessment shows that they can be used without unacceptable impacts on people and the environment. The Government have received representations that academic research indicates that neonicotinoid insecticides, which meet the requirements for approval, could be harming populations of bees and other pollinator species. Government scientists have considered all the published evidence cited, together with unpublished data submitted as part of the regulatory regime, and advise that it does not indicate a need to remove or restrict approvals.

Regulatory science is under constant development and a requirement for data on the impact of neonicotinoids on overwintering of bees has been identified and is being incorporated into the EU approvals system. Where such studies have been conducted to date they have not demonstrated a cause for concern. The Government will continue to engage actively with researchers and regulators from around the world regarding this issue and will not hesitate to take further action if a need emerges.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Steve Baker) of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 274W, on bees: pesticides, if she will commission evidence on the relationship between neonicotinoid pesticides and the size of the bee population; [52168]

(2) if she will assess for benchmarking purposes the differential effects of restrictions on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on the levels of the bee population in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* France, *(c)* Germany and *(d)* Italy. [52169]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* A scientific report submitted in December 2009 to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), entitled "Bee Mortality and Bee Surveillance in Europe", highlighted weaknesses in the surveillance systems employed by many member states leading to a lack of representative data at country level and comparable data regarding colony losses at EU level. However, the available data suggested that in recent years colony losses in England and Wales were lower than in a number of other European countries. The European Commission issued a Communication to the European Parliament and the Council in December 2010 outlining a number of initiatives to improve bee health in the EU. One of these was the commencement of a pilot surveillance programme in order to gain a better understanding of the situation across the EU.

The honey bee population varies during the year from around 20,000 per colony in the winter to 60,000 per colony in the summer. As honey bees are a managed species, their population is subject to decisions taken by beekeepers about how many colonies to maintain or expand in any one year and the beekeepers' success in this work. In recent years, both the number of beekeepers and colonies has increased in England, as shown by the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit's voluntary register of beekeepers, BeeBase. Currently, there are nearly 20,000 beekeepers managing about 104,000 colonies compared to 16,000 beekeepers managing about 80,000 colonies in 2008.

Over the last two years, there has been a significant reduction in the number of colonies that have been lost during the beekeeping season (i.e. from April to October) in England and Wales. During the 2010 season, 5.8% of colonies inspected were found to be dead compared with 6.9% the previous year. These figures are considerably lower than in 2008 when 12.3% of colonies inspected were found to be dead and last year's losses were the lowest since 2001. There is no clear relationship with usage data on neonicotinoid pesticides where the area treated in the UK has increased steadily since they were first approved. Given the EU initiatives on bee health and work by other international bodies such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), there is currently no justification for additional specific research on the relationship between neonicotinoid pesticides and the size of the UK bee population, but this will be kept under review.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had discussions with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on *(a)* the operation of the badger cull programme in Wales and *(b)* the implications of adopting a different policy in England; whether her Department is giving consideration to allowing volunteers to cull badgers in affected areas following her Department's consultation on badger control policy; and if she will make a statement. [53062]

Mr Paice: I have regular contact with the Minister for Rural Affairs in the Welsh Assembly Government on a range of issues, including bovine TB and badger control. In addition, officials in England and Wales have regular discussions about this issue.

I must emphasise that no decision has yet been taken on whether to permit badger culling in England. We received a large number of responses to our recently concluded consultation, which we are considering carefully. This is a difficult and sensitive issue and we need to get it right. We will announce our decision as part of a comprehensive and balanced TB Eradication Programme for England as soon as possible.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ensure no culling of badgers is sanctioned by her Department for the purposes of preventing the spread of bovine tuberculosis (bTB); and if she will take steps to prevent the switching of bTB ear tags by farmers. [53077]

Mr Paice: No decision has yet been taken on whether to permit badger culling. We received a large number of responses to our recently concluded consultation, which we are considering carefully. This is a difficult and sensitive issue and we need to get it right. We will announce our decision as part of a comprehensive and balanced TB Eradication Programme for England as soon as possible.

Evidence has emerged that a small number of farmers may have been illegally swapping cattle ear tags in order to retain highly productive TB reactors. As a result, I announced that from mid-April in England, DNA tags will be inserted into the ears of cattle that test positive for TB at the time of disclosure and a sample of its DNA retained by Animal Health VLA. These samples will then be cross-checked at random, or where fraud is suspected, against the DNA of animals sent to slaughter.

Cattle: Clones

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the number of cattle which originate from a cloned parent. [50922]

Mr Paice: It is not possible to estimate the number of cattle that are descendants of clones either in the UK or elsewhere. There is no requirement to identify whether semen, embryos, or animals themselves are derived from clones or from animals with clones in their ancestry. A requirement to identify all descendants of clones worldwide would be impractical and unenforceable.

We are aware of a small number of immediate offspring of a clone and some further descendants on UK farms.

Departmental Manpower

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff her Department employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [52693]

Richard Benyon: On 31 March 2011, DEFRA and its Executive agencies employed 9,689 staff in terms of headcount and 9,112 in full-time equivalents.

Environment Protection

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition of a green job her Department uses. [51968]

Mr Paice: There is no internationally agreed definition of a 'green job' that we can draw on for our own purposes. However, getting people back into employment, rebalancing the economy and supporting a strong and sustainable green economy are key objectives for the Government. The green economy will be supported and enabled by a thriving low carbon and environmental goods and services sector and it will also involve the 'greening' of other sectors—and associated occupations—in the economy.

Flood Control

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to receive the conclusions of the Flood Rescue National Capability Enhancement Project; and how frequently she meets *(a)* officials and *(b)* ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government to discuss planning for flood emergencies. [52148]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State expects a final report from the Flood Rescue National Enhancement Project by July 2011.

The Secretary of State meets as necessary both officials and ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government to discuss planning for emergencies.

Forestry Commission: Manpower

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed by the Forestry Commission on the latest date for which figures are available. [52694]

Mr Paice: At the end of March 2011 the Forestry Commission, as a non-ministerial Department for England, Scotland and Wales, employed 3,232 people, in both full-time and part-time positions.

Forests: Access

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to ensure that *(a)* cycling and *(b)* equestrian access which are not classified as rights of way are given adequate protection under any future reforms to the public forest estate. [53262]

Mr Paice: The Independent Panel on Forestry set up by the Secretary of State will advise on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England, on the role of the Forestry Commission, and on the role of the public forest estate. The panel will give consideration to options for enhancing public benefits from all woodlands and forests, including public access for recreation and leisure. Further information relating to the work of the panel can be found on the DEFRA website.

The Secretary of State will give careful consideration to the panel's report when it is submitted in spring 2012.

Horse Racing: Animal Welfare

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will meet representatives of the horseracing industry to discuss standards of safety and welfare in the Grand National. [52630]

Mr Paice: There are no plans for the Secretary of State to meet the horseracing industry to discuss standards of safety and welfare in the Grand National.

It is always upsetting to hear about the death of any racehorse during a race, particularly at a popular event such as the Grand National. However, we are satisfied that the British Horseracing Authority, by working with animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare, takes the necessary steps to make the Grand National as safe as possible for horses.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 14 February 2011 regarding early day motion 403 on circus animals. [53289]

Mr Paice: The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my noble Friend Lord Henley, responded to the letter on 25 February. I will forward a copy to the hon. Member's office.

Pesticides

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which pesticides were banned from use in the UK in each of the last 30 years. [52324]

Mr Paice: The marketing and use of pesticides (or plant protection products) are prohibited unless they have been approved by Ministers. Approved products may be reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet modern standards of safety. Products which do not meet those standards are refused approval or, if they are already on the market, are withdrawn. Active substances used in plant protection products are subject to similar arrangements for approval and periodic review at European Union level. If approval of an active substance is withdrawn, approvals of all products that contain it are withdrawn.

Approval holders may also withdraw products or active substances on their own initiative and for their own reasons. Official approvals are withdrawn in these cases.

Withdrawn products and substances are not banned. It remains open to approval holders to submit new applications for approval with the necessary supporting data if they wish to do so.

I have arranged for a table identifying the year in which an active substance was withdrawn in the United Kingdom to be placed in the Library of the House. It is based on the latest year in which a product containing it could be used. The information is available only for substances withdrawn since 14 August 1997: Those withdrawn before that date were not recorded in a database which can be interrogated, and information concerning them cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

Salmon: Scotland

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate has been made of the contribution of the Scottish salmon industry to the UK economy. [53040]

Richard Benyon: There has been no assessment made by DEFRA with regard to the contribution of the Scottish salmon industry to the UK economy; salmon farming in Scotland is a matter devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

SCOTLAND

Members

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 515W, on Members, which hon. Members, other than those representing Scottish constituencies or who are members of the Scottish Affairs Select Committee are defined by his Department as having an interest in Scottish affairs. [53197]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to parliamentary questions 50384 on 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 515W and to 49510 on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 31W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Accommodation

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 11W, on location, who the intended user is of each unit of sleeping accommodation. [51609]

John Thurso: 2 Parliament street is occupied by the Serjeant at Arms and 3 Parliament street by the Clerk of the House, 2a and 2b Canon Row are occupied by the Head Office Keeper and a Senior Office Keeper and 4 Canon Row by the Speaker's Secretary, all of whom are required to be available for duty at short notice.

At 1 Parliament street, bedrooms are available for the Deputy Serjeant at Arms, Assistant Serjeant at Arms, Clerk Assistant, Clerk of Committees and Clerk of Legislation who are sometimes required to be present on the Parliamentary Estate over prolonged periods and at unpredictable times.

In the Palace of Westminster, at Speaker's House, in addition to the Speaker, his family and the family staff, sleeping accommodation is provided for the Assistant Secretary to the Speaker and the Speaker's Trainbearer.

In the Ways and Means Corridor, sleeping accommodation is provided for the Chairman of Ways and Means and his two deputies.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51528]

Robert Neill: The Department has not set a formal public sector job reduction target. However, as part of the coalition Government's ambition of a decentralised, more enabling state, we are restructuring our Department. The restructuring will be completed by October 2012, with the number of staff in the Department falling by around 32% or 700 posts, from current levels. To help realise this reduction the Department has already launched two successful voluntary exit schemes, which have generated around 280 offers of voluntary exit.

To achieve the remainder of the necessary downsizing, over the next 12 months the Department is undertaking a selection exercise. The Department's senior civil servants have already undertaken such an exercise, with the number of senior posts falling by a similar percentage to the Department overall.

The Department has also not set any job reduction targets for its non-departmental public bodies. However, as a result of arm's length bodies reform some will close, some will merge and some will reduce in size. The Department has agreed administration budgets with each of its arm's length bodies. It is for the individual bodies to determine how to make savings to live within their administration budget.

The closure of the Government offices for the regions, as of 31 March 2011, will also result in reductions. Currently this is expected to result in approximately 200 compulsory redundancies, with the final number depending upon how many staff obtain a post elsewhere in the civil service during their notice period and a number of other staff confirming their formal acceptance of voluntary redundancy terms. It is expected that approximately 500 staff will leave on voluntary redundancy terms.

A number of residual regional development agency staff will transfer into the Department during the summer. These staff are not included in the figures quoted above.

Enterprise Zones

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements he plans to put in place to publicise and disseminate information on the potential benefits of enterprise zones. [52722]

Robert Neill: The Enterprise Zone Prospectus, published at Budget, provides guidance and information to local enterprise partnerships, local authorities and partners, such as local Chamber of Commerce, on the enterprise zone programme.

The Government are also hosting two workshops for local enterprise partnerships on enterprise zones.

Further information about the benefits of enterprise zones will be published in due course.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure enterprise zones *(a)* are tailored to local needs and *(b)* encourage local partnerships. [52724]

Robert Neill: Local enterprise partnerships are at the heart of our commitment to establish the 21 enterprise zones across England. As business-led partnerships with a goal of driving sustainable economic growth across local economic areas, local enterprise partnerships are ideally placed to drive Enterprise Zones forward.

The partnerships can act as the co-ordinating centre for the constituent local authorities, identify the barriers that hinder local growth and take the steps necessary to overcome such barriers.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to include incentives for training and educational opportunities within enterprise zones. [52728]

Robert Neill: Government have put forward a range of measures to develop enterprise zones and make them attractive places to do business. These include;

A business rate discount of 100%, up to £275,000 over a five year period;

All business rate growth generated by the zone for a period of at least 25 years will be keep by that area

Local Enterprise Partnerships have been tasked with bringing forward proposals for enterprise zones in their areas. As part of this, they may want to consider the potential of a wider package of support for businesses in enterprise zones including working with local colleges and work programme providers.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has assessed the likelihood that incentives in enterprise zones will be made available to businesses which would have moved into such areas without such incentives. [52730]

Robert Neill: Local enterprise partnerships are at the heart of our commitment to establish the 21 enterprise zones across England. As business-led partnerships, with a goal of driving sustainable economic growth across local economic areas, local enterprise partnerships are ideally placed to drive enterprise zones forward.

The Enterprise Zone Prospectus, published at Budget 2011, specifically asks local enterprise partnerships to consider how best to minimise deadweight costs to help deliver genuine economic growth.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount that local authorities will receive from the retention of business rates within enterprise zones in each of the next three years. [52732]

Robert Neill: We have asked Local Economic Partnerships to come forward with proposals for enterprise zones. All business rate growth within the enterprise zone for a period of at least 25 years will be retained and reinvested in the local area, to support the relevant Local Enterprise Partnership's priorities. The amount that authorities retain will depend on the nature of the successful bids.

Fire Services: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 532-3W, on fire services, whether the figures for 31 March 2011 will appear in the Operational Statistics Bulletin (OSB) which his Department will publish in August 2011; whether the figures provided in the August 2011 OSB will be broken down by fire and rescue authority; and what the deadline is for fire authorities submitting such figures for publication in the OSB. [52293]

Robert Neill: The figures for 31 March 2011 will appear in the Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletin to be published in August 2011. As per previous editions, the data will continue to be available by Fire and Rescue Authority in Appendix table 2.

The returns are due for submission from Fire and Rescue Authorities on 3 June 2011.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* whole-time firefighters, *(b)* retained firefighters, *(c)* fire control room staff and *(d)* all posts in each fire authority in England on 31 March 2012; and if he will ensure that (i) estimates and (ii) figures for each category in each fire authority are published (A) ahead of and (B) during each year of the current Comprehensive Spending Review period. [52294]

Robert Neill: The latest figures for the numbers of Fire and Rescue Service staff are for 31 March 2010. These are shown in the following table.

Subject to my Department's broader review of data reporting burdens the Department will continue to monitor Fire and Rescue Service staffing levels on an annual basis, and these will continue to be published in the Department's Official Statistics publication 'Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics'.

Fire and Rescue Service staffing strength, England, 31 March 2010[1]

	Number
Wholetime firefighters	29,735
Retained duty system firefighters[2]	11,899
Fire control staff	1,510
Other staff	8,509
Total staff	51,652

[1] In full-time equivalents (FTEs), except retained duty system firefighters which are in 24 hour units of cover.

[2] In 24-hour units of cover.

Historic Buildings: Property Transfer

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent reports he has received of local authority selling historic buildings in order to save costs. [51920]

Robert Neill: The only direct information my Department receives about local authority disposals is where the Secretary of State is asked to give consent for disposals of land at less than best consideration. We have had no cases like this.

Local Authorities

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce recent progress on his Department's review of statutory duties placed on local authorities. [53362]

Robert Neill: The cross Whitehall review of statutory duties aims to develop a more comprehensive picture of the legal obligations local authorities have and identify old and unnecessary burdens or barriers preventing councils from getting on with their job.

We asked for initial public comments by 25 April 2011. We will now consider those comments carefully before deciding further action to be taken in relation to duties.

Local Government Act 1972

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made on the proposal to repeal section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972. [52775]

Robert Neill: The Government's proposal to repeal section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 was announced on 9 October 2010. The announcement stated that the repeal was planned to come into force in 2011, and this remains our intention. A consultation paper setting out a draft legislative reform order will be published in due course.

Local Government: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme are sustainable and progressive; [52243]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme on part-time members of staff who are members of the scheme; [52244]

(3) whether he has carried out an impact assessment of the proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme; and what his estimate is of the change in the opt-out rate resulting from implementation of the changes. [52255]

Robert Neill: At the spending review, the Government announced changes to the level of employee contribution rates in all public service schemes, including the Local Government Pension Scheme. Total savings in the scheme in England and Wales of £900million a year by 2014-15 are to be phased in from April 2012. The Government remain committed to protecting low earners and will ensure that changes are progressive and sustainable. Discussions about how changes will be implemented are ongoing with scheme interests in the context of wider ranging pension discussions. The Government will put forward proposals in due course for schemes generally and will then bring forward formal consultations on the necessary changes to scheme regulations.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people had opted out of local government pension schemes on the most recent date for which figures are available. [52979]

Robert Neill: Membership details involving the Local Government Pension Scheme are obtainable from each of the scheme's pension fund administering authorities, including opt-outs of current members. The Department does not hold this information.

Parish Councils: Bank Services

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward proposals to enable parish councils to use online banking. [53002]

Robert Neill: Currently the requirements of section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 place barriers in the way of parish councils using online banking facilities. Last October the Government announced their proposals to repeal section 150(5), with a planned implementation in 2011. This remains our intention.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on a community right to appeal in the planning system. [51921]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 537.

Private Rented Housing: Regulation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the regulatory burden on private sector landlords by simplifying and consolidating all regulations that apply to such landlords. [51760]

Grant Shapps: The Government believe that, in regulating the private rented sector, it is important to strike the right balance between over-burdening landlords and causing the sector to contract and ensuring that adequate safeguards are in place to protect tenants. Our view is that that current legislative framework gets this balance right.

The existing legislation is well established and much guidance, including that provided by my Department, is available to help landlords and tenants understand their rights and responsibilities. Although these matters are kept under constant review, we have no plans at present to change or consolidate the existing framework.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the Deposit Protection Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [52529]

Grant Shapps: The Deposit Protection Service is required to submit monthly reports on key performance indicators under the terms of its Service Concession Agreement with the Department for Communities and Local Government. In addition, the Department holds quarterly monitoring meetings with the service at which any performance issues can be discussed.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Hand-held Devices

6. **Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Leader of the House what representations he has received on the use of hand-held devices during proceedings of the House and its Committees. [52656]

Mr Heath: The Leader of the House has received no representation on this matter which is ultimately a matter for the House.

The Procedure Committee has produced a sensible proposal in its Report. My right hon. Friend the Leader of the House wrote to the Chair of the Committee saying that we would both support a Motion in the terms proposed by the Committee to be debated in Back-Bench time.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Questions

7. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Leader of the House for what reason the time allocated to questions for oral answer to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been reduced to 45 minutes; and if he will review that decision. [52657]

Sir George Young: Following a request from the Official Opposition, the Government increased the time allocation for questions for oral answer to the Deputy Prime Minister. As a consequence of the pressures on the time available for oral questions, it was necessary for changes to be made to the rota.

The status of the oral questions rota will of course be kept under review.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* cancer incidence and *(b)* cancer mortality by (i) socio-economic group, (ii) gender, (iii) age, (iv) religion, (v) disability and (vi) ethnicity in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [53348]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the level of (a) cancer incidence and (b) cancer mortality by (i) socio-economic group, (ii) gender, (iii) age, (iv) religion, (v) disability and (vi) ethnicity in each year since 2001. [53348]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Tables 1 and 2 attached provide (a) the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer in England by age group, for males (Table 1) and females (Table 2) for 2001 to 2008 (the latest year available).

ONS does not publish figures on cancer incidence by socio-economic group, religion, disability or ethnicity, since it is not mandatory for cancer registries to collect this information for publication as National Statistics.

Tables 3 and 4 attached provide (b) the number of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause of death in England and Wales by age group, for males (Table 3) and females (Table 4) for 2001 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Copies of these tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

ONS does not routinely publish mortality statistics by National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) however figures for 2001-03 are available. Table 5 provides the age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, where the underlying cause of death was cancer in England and Wales for men aged 25-64 and women aged 25-59 by NS-SEC for 2001-03 (the only period available).

Mortality statistics are provided using the information collected at death registration. It is not possible to obtain from these mortality statistics the deceased religion, disability status or ethnicity.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England and death registrations in England and Wales are available on the National Statistics website.

Cancer incidence:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/mb1-39/mb1-no39-2008.pdf

Death registrations:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancer excluding non melanoma skin cancer, by age group, males, England, 2001-08[1,2]

Males

Age group	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
<1	61	53	67	67	65	53	58	54

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancer excluding non melanoma skin cancer, by age group, males, England, 2001-08[1,2]

								Males
Age group	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
01-04	222	256	249	229	239	245	241	259
05-09	178	197	159	204	186	204	151	144
10-14	187	218	180	215.	177	219	184	206
15-19	294	308	297	326	350	330	321	346
20-24	482	457	476	482	515	513	535	554
25-29	682	598	586	666	714	767	789	807
30-34	1,055	939	986	941	1,000	1,004	933	931
35-39	1,340	1,314	1,312	1,426	1,507	1,433	1,441	1,416
40-44	1,852	1,900	1,850	1,969	2,080	2,176	2,139	2,207
45-49	2,826	2,888	2,848	2,971	3,104	3,181	3,116	3,320
50-54	5,636	5,265	5,045	5,087	5,157	5,304	5,400	5,397
55-59	8,663	9,218	9,513	10,252	10,428	10,448	10,093	9,657
60-64	12,354	12,205	12,691	13,187	13,573	14,644	15,363	16,122
65-69	16,934	16,792	16,989	17,853	17,976	18,081	18,477	18,625
70-74	20,104	19,856	19,428	20,340	20,006	20,315	20,390	20,679
75-79	20,295	19,857	19,964	20,097	19,961	20,424	20,084	20,326
80-84	13,673	14,297	14,892	15,952	15,496	15,680	15,215	15,329
85+	10,310	9,952	9,553	9,636	10,409	11,380	11,432	11,724

[1] Cancer incidence is defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 excluding code C44, non-melanoma skin cancer.

[2] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancer excluding non melanoma skin cancer, by age group, females, England, 2001-08[1,2]

								Females
Age group	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
<1	49	53	64	58	63	50	57	40
01-04	203	229	202	195	211	215	213	172
05-09	151	136	150	132	137	109	116	129
10-14	171	169	155	171	159	159	161	165
15-19	232	236	229	259	282	263	276	227
20-24	385	414	456	418	496	509	500	499
25-29	858	800	768	827	911	963	1,015	1,055
30-34	1,619	1,670	1,693	1,604	1,634	1,638	1,579	1,540
35-39	2,757	2,734	2,766	2,854	2,772	2,922	2,855	2,784
40-44	4,018	3,746	4,173	4,321	4,592	4,668	4,768	4,712
45-49	5,630	5,450	5,672	5,852	6,058	6,338	6,316	6,752
50-54	9,421	8,647	8,478	8,534	8,308	8,410	8,306	8,680
55-59	10,164	10,679	11,636	11,694	11,487	11,726	11,203	10,831
60-64	11,049	11,016	11,555	11,987	12,378	12,918	14,256	15,016
65-69	11,709	11,930	12,661	13,104	14,049	14,171	14,238	14,311
70-74	14,455	14,253	14,186	13,966	14,286	14,223	13,987	14,456
75-79	15,877	15,373	15,348	15,062	15,571	15,594	15,427	15,516
80-84	12,984	13,357	14,538	14,621	14,610	14,795	14,214	14,229
85+	14,335	13,704	13,756	13,450	14,114	14,863	15,273	15,592

[1] Cancer incidence is defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 excluding code C44, non-melanoma skin cancer.

[2] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Table 3: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of cancer, by age group, males, England and Wales, 2001-09[1,2,3]

									Males
Age group	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
<1	5	3	6	7	4	8	9	1	4
01-04	39	46	40	39	41	40	39	30	26
05-09	43	56	46	52	48	39	51	53	37
10-14	51	67	58	48	37	70	41	29	35
15-19	77	86	81	84	61	87	79	60	84
20-24	99	99	97	105	97	99	95	106	102
25-29	127	121	100	122	103	135	132	128	125
30-34	255	217	225	204	181	238	192	171	183
35-39	410	387	390	391	381	371	341	364	331
40-44	664	694	738	671	672	693	738	628	707
45-49	1,323	1,324	1,282	1,221	1,279	1,254	1,208	1,269	1,257
50-54	2,885	2,636	2,453	2,441	2,248	2,291	2,232	2,181	2,161
55-59	4,427	4,665	4,775	4,527	4,571	4,608	4,386	4,103	4,005
60-64	6,412	6,459	6,372	6,275	6,373	6,609	6,869	7,017	7,140
65-69	8,832	9,017	8,878	8,841	8,640	8,674	8,747	8,677	8,720

Table 3: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of cancer, by age group, males, England and Wales, 2001-09[1,2,3]

									Males
Age group	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
70-74	11,775	11,759	11,376	11,231	11,154	10,725	10,648	11,033	10,956
75-79	13,485	13,325	12,971	13,068	12,560	12,788	12,621	12,643	12,408
80-84	10,428	10,841	11,663	12,006	11,827	11,702	11,771	11,848	12,054
85+	9,324	9,422	9,293	9,239	9,953	10,594	11,132	11,754	12,174

[1] Cause of death for cancer was defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 4: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of cancer, by age group, females, England and Wales, 2001-09[1,2,3]

									Females
Age group	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
<1	5	5	4	5	5	3	7	3	6
01-04	33	36	37	26	20	39	28	32	31
05-09	48	39	41	34	35	31	29	31	33
10-14	47	41	51	41	46	29	44	27	39
15-19	52	65	69	59	57	48	60	40	39
20-24	67	57	75	83	74	59	84	59	66
25-29	142	119	128	116	111	110	128	133	102
30-34	321	316	287	281	255	224	217	237	213
35-39	618	588	526	547	536	547	540	495	448
40-44	970	977	957	997	1,016	981	988	1,017	938
45-49	1,605	1,632	1,605	1,582	1,544	1,561	1,631	1,596	1,533
50-54	3,066	2,818	2,705	2,533	2,508	2,418	2,436	2,447	2,393
55-59	3,971	4,208	4,152	4,271	4,394	4,306	4,019	3,747	3,720
60-64	5,036	5,055	5,045	5,126	5,136	5,360	5,768	5,971	5,831
65-69	6,571	6,581	6,468	6,672	6,715	6,603	6,539	6,686	6,654
70-74	9,267	8,984	8,783	8,466	8,264	8,109	8,174	8,232	8,392
75-79	11,076	10,894	10,642	10,286	10,428	10,272	10,080	9,990	9,769
80-84	9,970	10,514	11,106	10,974	10,907	10,751	10,778	10,649	10,310
85+	12,708	12,898	12,505	12,202	12,613	13,159	13,923	14,344	14,394

[1] Cause of death for cancer was defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 5: Age-standardised mortality rates from cancer, by National Statistics Socio-economic Classification, men aged 25-64 and women aged 25-59, England and Wales, 2001-03[1,2,3,4,5,6,7]

						Rate per 100,000
	Men			*Women*		
		95% confidence limits			*95% confidence limits*	
NS-SEC	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
1 Higher managerial and professional	82	80	84	75	72	78
2 Lower managerial and professional	99	97	101	77	75	80
3 Intermediate	91	87	95	73	69	77
4 Small employers and own account workers	109	107	112	87	82	91
5 Lower supervisor and technical	140	137	143	102	96	108
6 Semi-routine	147	143	151	90	86	95
7 Routine	158	155	161	116	108	123

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.

[4] NS-SEC for men assigned using reduced derivation incorporating adjustment to death counts in classes 2 and 3 for misallocation of certain occupations. Complete methodology in White C, Edgar G, and Siegler V (2008) 'Social inequalities in male mortality for selected causes of death by the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification, England and Wales, 2001-03', "Health Statistics Quarterly" 38,19-32, available on the National Statistics website at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=2005&Pos=9&ColRank=1&Rank=1

[5] NS-SEC for women assigned by the 'combined' method whereby if married the most advantaged class of either the woman or her husband is used to represent the woman's classification. Adjustments for under-recording of death have been applied. Complete methodology in Langford A, Johnson B, and Al-Hamed A (2009) 'Social inequalities in female mortality by regions and by selected causes of death, England and Wales, 2001-03', "Health Statistics Quarterly" 44, 7-26, available on the National Statistics website at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=2314&Pos=4&ColRank=1&Rank=1

[6] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[7] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Census

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons the contract for handling the UK 2011 Census data was awarded to a non-British company; what steps will be taken to ensure *(a)* the security of data and *(b)* the privacy of the individuals providing it; what access will be granted to personal data about named individuals; under what circumstances such access may be granted; which (i) public bodies and (ii) other organisations will have access to such data; and if he will make a statement. [52433]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking (i) for what reason the contract for handling the UK 2011 Census data was awarded to a non-British company; (ii) what steps will be taken to ensure (a) the security of this data and (b) the privacy of the individuals providing it; (iii) what access will be granted to personal data about named individuals; under what circumstances such access may be granted; (iv) which (i) public bodies and (ii) other organisations will have access to such data; and if he will make a statement. (52433)

(i) The Office for National Statistics (ONS) carries out the census in England and Wales. Lockheed Martin UK was awarded a contract in August 2008 to provide a range of services to support the 2011 Census in England and Wales. The contract was awarded following a fully compliant procurement in accordance with the requirements of European law and the European Union Procurement Directives, which have been incorporated into English law. Lockheed Martin UK has subcontracted operations to a range of UK or EU owned companies. Lockheed Martin UK does not handle 2011 Census data.

UK Data Capture has been subcontracted by Lockheed Martin UK to receive, scan and process questionnaires at a specially commissioned site in Manchester. The data is then passed to ONS to analyse the data and produce census statistics.

(ii) (a) The confidentiality of census personal information is a top priority for the ONS. The UK has a 200 year track record of maintaining confidentiality which ONS intends to uphold. Security has been a fundamental aspect of the whole census design. The broad principles and strategic approach covering privacy, security and confidentiality of census information were set out in Chapter 6 of the White Paper 'Helping to shape tomorrow' (CM 7513), laid before Parliament in December 2008.

The Census collects information from each person and household in the country but it is not concerned with facts about individuals as such. Its purpose is to provide facts about the community, and groups within the community, as a whole. The information collected in the census will be used solely for the production of statistics and statistical research. The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (SRSA) makes it a criminal offence, subject to a maximum penalty of 24 months imprisonment and/or a fine, for a member or employee of the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (of which the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the executive arm) or any contractor, to unlawfully disclose personal information held by the Authority in relation to any of its functions.

ONS has put in place operational arrangements to ensure that:

all data processing will be carried out in the UK;

ONS retains ownership of the data;

only people who work for ONS have access to the full census dataset in the operational data centre;

ONS controls system access rights to all data systems;

everyone working with census data signs undertakings of confidentiality;

no staff from either Lockheed Martin (the US parent) or Lockheed Martin UK will have access to any personal census data.

The online census, for instance was built with data security as a primary requirement, employs the strongest form of encryption and has been subject to rigorous security tests, and meets government-information assurance and data security standards, and is ISO 27001 compliant, the industry standard for information security management.

ONS has commissioned its own independent security testing of census systems, which has been carried out for us by SOPRA, a CESG approved CHECK service provider. ONS also commissioned an independent review of security and the report was published on 11 February. The report "2011 Census: Independent Information Assurance Review" has been placed in the House of Commons library and can be found on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/commitment-to-confidentiality/index.html

The independent reviewers concluded that:

"the public can be reassured that the information they provide to the 2011 Census will be well protected and securely managed"

(b) A privacy impact assessment has been carried out and was published in November 2009 and the Independent Information Assurance review and the Privacy Impact Assessment available at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/commitment-to-confidentiality/index.html

(iii) Access to personal census information is tightly restricted to those who are required to handle census questionnaires as part of the census data processing operation. This includes UK Data Capture staff at the Manchester processing centre who open returned questionnaire envelopes, scan the questionnaire pages and capture any handwritten responses which cannot be automatically read and coded, such as information relating to occupation and activity of employer.

It also includes staff working for ONS on the quality assurance, edit and aggregation of census datasets, prior to statistical disclosure and anonymisation before production of statistical outputs.

All these staff have been security cleared and sign a statutory census confidentiality undertaking as prescribed by Schedule 5 of the Census (England) Regulations 2010 and Census (Wales) Regulations 2010.

Census information about named individuals is not shared with other government departments, local authorities, or businesses. Only statistical data which has been subject to statistical disclosure control measures to ensure individuals are not identifiable is released. Individual census returns are kept safe and secure for 100 years after which time they are made available as historical public records.

(iv) (i) and (ii) Other than organisations contracted to ONS to support the census operation or to prepare and publish census related outputs, (and therefore subject to the security measures outlined in (ii) (a), no organisations have access to personal data about named individuals.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010; [50186]

(2) how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50220]

Mr Maude: No Cabinet Office Ministers have an allocated GCDA ministerial car. Ministers may use the GCDA pool cars, and have occasionally used these to travel to their constituency, where a business requirement has justified this. The following table shows the dates CO Ministers last used a GCDA car, as at 1 April 2011.

Minister	*Date*
Francis Maude	31 March
Oliver Letwin	10 March
Nick Hurd	30 March
Mark Harper	24 March
Baroness Warsi	7 March

Since May 2010, the CO ministerial team has spent £60,149 on GCDA ministerial cars, £1,534 on ministerial train journeys and the details of overseas travel are published quarterly, and can be found on:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

No amount has been spent on private aircraft.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Reform

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to publish a Bill to make provision for *(a)* individual voter registration and *(b)* the recall of hon. Members by constituents. [53230]

Mr Harper: On individual electoral registration, I announced in September last year that we will seek to bring forward a draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny in the current session, and it remains our intention to do so.

The Government have also given a firm commitment to bring forward proposals to establish a recall mechanism for MPs, and further details will be announced this Session.

House of Lords: Reform

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister by when he expects to bring forward legislative proposals to introduce a wholly or substantially elected second Chamber. [53231]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 879, we will publish a draft Bill by the end of May 2011. The Bill will then be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny. The Government hope that this will be carried out by a Joint Committee of both Houses.

West Lothian Question

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in setting up a commission to address the West Lothian question. [51915]

Mr Harper: Careful consideration is ongoing as to the timing, composition, scope and remit of the commission to consider the West Lothian question. As I informed the House on 15 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 822W, the commission's work will need to take account of our proposals to reform the House of Lords to create a wholly or mainly elected second Chamber, the changes being made to the way this House does business, and amendments to the devolution regimes, for example in the Scotland Bill presently before Parliament, and we will make an announcement this year.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what missions have been flown from Royal Navy aircraft carriers between 2003 and 2010; and what type of craft was used in each mission. [53195]

Nick Harvey: The number of flights of each aircraft from Royal Navy aircraft carriers is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Children in Care

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of new recruits to the armed services aged between 16 and 18 years had been looked after children prior to their enlistment in each of the last five years. [53291]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department offers to members of the armed forces under the age of 18 who choose to leave the armed forces. [52874]

Mr Robathan: Those under 18 who choose to leave the armed forces receive a resettlement brief which signposts employment, accommodation and welfare assistance available from ex-services welfare organisations and other Government Departments; information on preserved pension rights; and access to housing information. These 'early service leavers' also have a mandatory interview prior to discharge that includes an assessment of vulnerability to social exclusion and a review of their post-discharge accommodation arrangements. Extra help is offered to those assessed as vulnerable to social exclusion through the services of the Careers Transition Partnership. The same provision is given to any service leaver, irrespective of age, who has completed less than four years, service, or to an individual who is being compulsorily discharged.

In addition, those under the age of 18 are carefully managed to ensure the individual's parent or guardian has been contacted and that the individual will return to them, or have their permission to return to a different address. The parent or guardian are provided with travel details and the discharging unit is required to contact them the following day to ensure the individual has arrived.

Those under 18 are also provided with a rail warrant, and travel plans that ensure they reach the destination by 23:59, and transport (or fare) to the nearest railway station. Where arrival by 23:59 is not possible overnight accommodation is provided.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with their counterparts at the EU on the arms trade treaty. [52009]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Secretary of State for Defence fully supports efforts to secure an arms trade treaty. The Secretary of State and other Ministers are fully engaged in developments on an arms trade treaty and have discussed this issue with their counterparts in the course of normal Defence business.

The UK, led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is working closely with EU colleagues to secure an arms trade treaty. Ministry of Defence officials have contributed to this work where issues for Defence have arisen.

Army: Brecon

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Armed Forces on the future of the Regular Army Headquarters in Brecon; and if he will make a statement. [53105]

Nick Harvey: A project team has been set up to review the Army's regional administrative structures within the UK. As part of this work the project team is currently looking at the functional responsibilities and span of control of each of the Brigades. This is a complex piece of work which will need to be considered alongside the other structural changes currently being examined across Defence as a result of the strategic defence and security review.

I recognise the long association that exists between the town of Brecon and the military and I am grateful for the support that our armed forces have always found in Wales.

Aviation: Training

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what stage of training each trainee pilot who has been made redundant had reached prior to their notice of redundancy. [53106]

Nick Harvey: The RAF has finished the process of de-selecting RAF trainee pilots from the flying training pipeline. Students will now be considered for retention and retraining in alternative ground-based branches in the RAF. Those students affected will have progressed up to one of the following stages of training: Initial Officer Training, Elementary Flying Training or type-specific training for either Fast-Jet, Rotary or Multi-Engine. Further details will not be available until the selection process is complete. None of the de-selected trainee pilots has been selected for redundancy at this stage.

Departmental Land

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether revenues raised from the sale of land owned by his Department will be retained by his Department. [53088]

Mr Gerald Howarth: As agreed with HM Treasury as part of the periodic spending reviews, receipts from the sale of property are retained by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and are reinvested by the Department in key priorities as part of the Defence budget.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what land owned by his Department has been sold in each of the last four years; and how much revenue was raised from such sales in each such year. [53089]

Mr Gerald Howarth: A copy of the list of land sold by this Department in each of the last four years will be placed in the Library of the House.

The revenue raised from such sales is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	394
2007-08	[1]1,160
2008-09	110
2009-10	77

[1] Including Chelsea Barracks £959 million.

Figures for financial year 2010-11 are still subject to audit, and cannot yet be published.

Foreign Relations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions Ministry of Defence *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel have met their counterparts from (i) Sri Lanka and (ii) Pakistan since January 2010. [49902]

Nick Harvey: Regarding Sri Lanka, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1204-5W.

The Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Defence visited Pakistan in February 2010 and met a number of Pakistani officials, including his Pakistani equivalent.

The Chief of Defence Staff has visited Pakistan on three occasions during the period (in February 2010, November 2010 and March 2011) and on each occasion has met his Pakistani equivalent, the Chief of Army Staff (CoAS).

The Chief of the General Staff visited Pakistan in February 2010, June 2010 and January 2010 and met CoAS and other senior Pakistani officers, including his equivalent.

The First Sea Lord visited Pakistan in February 2010 and conducted a series of meetings with his Pakistani equivalent.

The Chief of the Air Staff invited his Pakistani equivalent to an Air Chiefs' Conference in the margins of the Royal International Air Tattoo in 2010. He conducted a reciprocal visit to Pakistan during January 2011.

The Ministry of Defence efforts to broaden and deepen our relationship with the Pakistani military have resulted in a number of other lower level visits during the period.

Routine defence relations activity with Pakistan includes the provision of funded courses, exercises, attachments and exchanges of personnel.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the unit cost of a UK *(a)* air to surface missile, *(b)* air to air missile, *(c)* ship to surface missile and *(d)* ship to air missile of the type deployed by UK forces in Libya. [53340]

Peter Luff: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House, but I refer him to the answer I gave on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 569W, to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (Tom Blenkinsop) in respect of Storm Shadow.

MOD Bicester

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much money MOD Bicester has paid to *(a)* Palletways (3PL Contract), *(b)* Pertemps Employment Agency and *(c)* City Sprint and other private couriers since the decision to implement the closure of regional distribution centres; and if he will make a statement. [52538][1]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The total payments made to Palletways, Pertemps Employment Agency and private couriers (including City Sprint) since late 2007 when the regional distribution centres were closed, are provided in the following table:

£ million

Company	*FY2007-08 (3 months)*	*FY2008-09*	*FY2009-10*	*Total*
Palletways	0.547	1.917	2.134	4.598
Pertemps	0	3.439	2.731	6.170
Private couriers	0.880	—	—	—

As a direct result of the decision to close the regional distribution centres and centralise distribution activities at Bicester and Donnington with greater use of third party logistics contractors, annual net savings of around £4 million have been achieved.

Naval Air Warfare Capability

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the full regeneration of the naval air warfare capability; [51187]

(2) what timetable he has set for the full regeneration of the naval air warfare capability; [51188]

(3) what steps he plans to take to implement his proposals that the naval air warfare capability will be fully regenerated. [51191]

Nick Harvey: We plan to regenerate a carrier strike capability from around 2020, based upon an operational Queen Elizabeth (QE) class aircraft carrier fitted with catapults and arrestor gear and the F35-C Joint Strike Fighter.

The current estimate of cost for the two QE class aircraft carriers is £5.2 billion of capital expenditure, which does not include the additional costs of installing catapults and arrestor gear for the operational carrier. We are currently investigating the best approach to carrying out this work.

We have yet to make final decisions on the overall numbers of Joint Strike Fighters we intend to order and will not do so before the next planned Strategic Defence Review. The cost of each aircraft will depend on when in the overall production programme it is bought and will vary according to a number of factors, such as other partner nations' procurement plans. We do not routinely reveal the forecast cost of future programmes in order to protect the Department's position in commercial negotiations.

Navy and Air Commands are developing plans to sustain and then regrow the skills and experience required to regenerate carrier strike capability. The transition plan includes a full analysis of all of the roles involved in delivering the new capability and a plan to deliver trained personnel to fill those posts in time to meet the introduction to service schedule.

The move to the F35-C (Carrier Variant) Joint Combat Aircraft and the associated modifications to the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier will provide the UK with a world class capability superior to that previously planned in the decades to come.

Service Complaints Commissioner

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were made to the Service Complaints Commissioner in every month since May 2010. [53082]

Mr Robathan: The Service Complaints Commissioner (SCC) advises that 476 contacts were made to her between 1 May 2010 and 26 April 2011, varying by month from 32 to 58.

Figures 1-8c in the SCC's annual report for 2010 provide more detailed information on the nature of potential complaints received by the SCC during calendar year 2010. The report is available at the following website:

http://armedforcescomplaints.independent.gov.uk/

A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Analysis of contacts received in 2011 will be covered in the next annual report.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of processing a complaint through the Service Complaints Procedure in the latest period for which figures are available; [53083]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of processing a *(a)* successful complaint and *(b)* unsuccessful complaint through the Service Complaints Procedure in the latest period for which figures are available. [53084]

Mr Gerald Howarth: No estimate has been made as the information on which it would be based is not held.

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[1] *[Official Report, 12 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 1MC.]*

In all three services, the Chain of Command at the lowest level (Commanding Officer) handles complaints without any dedicated resources. It is therefore, not possible to identify an average cost of processing a complaint.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the average time taken to process a single complaint through the Service Complaints Procedure in the latest period for which figures are available. [53085]

Mr Robathan: The time taken to process individual complaints has not hitherto been recorded in a way that enables an average time to be estimated without disproportionate cost; each service having had a separate recording system. A new tri-service complaints recording process was introduced on the Joint Personnel Administration system from 1 January this year.

The latest data on timeliness of the handling of Service Complaints against the agreed targets can be found in the Service Complaints Commissioner's Annual Report 2010 at the following website address:

http://armedforcescomplaints.independent.gov.uk/

A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Solar Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on solar energy installations on the Sovereign Base Areas of *(a)* Akrotiri and *(b)* Dehekelia. [51249]

Nick Harvey: Over the two previous financial years (2009-10 and 2010-11), the Ministry of Defence has spent a total of £810,000 on the installation of solar energy systems in the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dehekelia, together with some £130,000 over the past two years on the management of such systems.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Combined Heat and Power

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions which have resulted from the use of combined heat and power generating units in the last five years; when he plans to publish his Department's heat strategy; and if he will make a statement. [52048]

Gregory Barker: The estimated carbon savings from the use of CHP in the UK are given in the following table. The figure for 2010 will be published at the end of July 2011.

	Estimated CO_2 savings ($MtCO_2$)
2005	11.43
2006	11.75
2007	10.83
2008	11.03
2009	9.47

DECC is undertaking internal strategic analysis on the future supply of heat in the UK. This work is intended to ensure the Department maintains a clear understanding of the challenges associated with decarbonising the heat sector over time, and will link with our renewables and emissions targets and sit alongside the 2050 pathways work and our response to the Committee on Climate Change advice on carbon budgets. A decision on any future publication will be considered once our internal work has been carried out.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason the exemption of combined heat and power (CHP) generating units is being considered for removal from climate change regulations; what assessment he has made of any disincentive to invest in CHP generating units which may result from such a change; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of such a change on competitiveness with other EU member states. [52049]

Gregory Barker: The Budget announced that CHP would receive relief from the carbon price support rates and that the exemption from the climate change levy for electricity generated from a CHP that is supplied indirectly to an energy consumer will be removed from 1 April 2013. The Government will work with the CHP industry to explore the most appropriate level of relief to ensure CHP remain incentivised through public subsidy.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53813]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not own any buildings.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff from which organisations have been seconded to his Department to work on electricity market reform. [53059]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departmental Work Experience

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53191]

Gregory Barker: Since 8 May 2010 the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has taken on a total of 13 people on an internship basis, all of whom are UK residents. While we record the home addresses of all people working in DECC, we do not record which constituency they lived in at the time of their application so cannot confirm if any were from the Bassetlaw constituency.

There are currently seven people still working in DECC on an internship basis.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the findings of each review undertaken by his Department of the preparedness for shale gas exploration in the UK in the last 12 months. [53078]

Charles Hendry: There has been no formal review, but the Department has submitted evidence to the Energy and Climate Change Committee's current inquiry into shale gas, available at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmenergy/writev/shale/sg01.htm

A group of regulators with relevant responsibilities (DECC, the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Agency) have since February been periodically in contact by teleconference to exchange relevant information.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has considered the merits of including in the scope of the review of nuclear safety by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (a) nuclear reactors, (b) spent fuel stores and (c) reprocessing plants. [53022]

Charles Hendry: The Chief Nuclear Inspector Mike Weightman made a statement on 29 March outlining the broad areas that would be included in the scope of his report.

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/fukushima/statement-290311.htm

Dr Weightman will establish the facts of the unprecedented events at Fukushima, Japan and determine if there are lessons to be learned for the UK, to add to our very robust safety standards and arrangements. His report will be public, independent, evidence based, comprehensive, wide in scope and based on the best technical advice, consulting nationally and internationally with colleagues and organisations who, like us, have the safety and security of people and society uppermost in our minds.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change's request has made it clear that Mike Weightman has full independence to determine the scope of the report and the arrangements for conducting it.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the nuclear industry on the nuclear safety review; and whether representatives of the industry have given any undertakings in respect of this issue. [53024]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) met industry representatives at the Nuclear Development Forum on 17 March 2011.

At the forum the appointment of the Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, to write a report on lessons to be learned from events in Japan was discussed and warmly welcomed by industry.

Oil: Refineries

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the competitiveness of the UK oil refining industry with that of other EU member states of the introduction of the carbon reduction commitment in the UK only; and if he will make a statement. [52050]

Gregory Barker: The Government have not undertaken any additional assessment on the impact of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme on competition since publication of the final impact assessment in January 2010. Participants with refineries will not need to purchase CRC allowances for emissions covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). However if the organisation is responsible for energy use other than that covered by a participant's obligations in the EU ETS or climate change agreements the participant will need to purchase CRC allowances for these, like all other CRC participants in the first phase of the CRC. The energy efficiency measures the CRC encourages can save organisations money through savings on energy bills and make them more competitive. The Government are currently reviewing the overlapping regulations facing CRC participants as part of our simplification review. My officials met the UK Petroleum Industry Association to discuss the concerns of the refining sector earlier this year.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the regulatory regime in the UK on the recent decision of four oil refining companies to cease operating in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [52051]

Charles Hendry: The UK has an open and competitive market for oil products, including oil refining. We consider this to be in the best long-term interest of consumers with regulation by the competition authorities and other regulatory bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

A number of UK refineries are currently changing ownership or are for sale. Two refineries have been sold recently while a third will become part of a major joint venture agreement, all safeguarding local jobs.

Individual company business strategies play an important role in investment decisions about individual refining assets. International oil companies are reducing their presence in the UK market in part to focus on upstream exploration and production but different companies are entering the market either as joint venture partners or asset owner/operators. That new investors wish to invest in the UK demonstrates the continuing and underlying attractiveness of the UK refining sector. The Government welcome new investors in the UK market and looks forward to working closely with these new companies in the future.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that vacated oil refinery capacity is maintained as insurance against the reduction or cessation of supply of oil products refined abroad. [52052]

Charles Hendry: The UK operates within an international market for petroleum products and it is for the market to decide whether to maintain spare or mothballed refining capacity. The UK does hold emergency oil stocks under international obligations for use in oil supply disruptions. The latest available data for the end of January 2011 report that the UK held emergency oil stocks of 13.5 million tonnes that are equivalent to 88 days worth of consumption, against an EU obligation of 67.5 days of consumption.

Emergency oil stocks are more accessible than mothballed refining capacity that would take some time to re-activate. Furthermore I do not consider that it would be appropriate for the Government to intervene in an individual company's economic decision on whether to mothball a refining asset as this may prevent companies from taking the right decisions for their businesses and could deter future investors from the UK market.

Tidal Power: Wales

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the performance of the tidal energy demonstration project in Pembrokeshire. [53027]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not carry out assessments on the potential generating performance of tidal energy devices. However, the tidal energy demonstration device off the Pembrokeshire coast (DeltaStream) has received the necessary consents from the Department and the Welsh Assembly Government to deploy their tidal energy device. When it is installed in the water, conditions in the consents will require that monitoring of the impacts of the project on the marine environment is undertaken by the developer.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on its agreement to work with the Crown Estate on marine energy. [53026]

Charles Hendry: DECC has not had specific discussions on the Welsh Assembly Government and Crown Estate's agreement. However, we are working closely with the Welsh Assembly Government, the other devolved Administrations and the Crown Estate through the UK Marine Energy Programme to enhance the UK marine energy sector's ability to develop and deploy wave and tidal energy devices at a commercial scale.

DECC welcomes the Welsh Assembly Government's initiative with the Crown Estate to work together to support the development of marine renewable energy manufacturing capacity in Wales.

Wind Power: Seas and Oceans

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many offshore wind turbines became operational in UK waters in each of the last five years. [52842]

Charles Hendry: 11 offshore wind farms have become fully operational in UK waters since January 2006. This has led to the installation of 344 turbines with a total installed capacity of 1127MW.

By year, this equates to:

	Turbines	*MW*
2006	30	90
2007	27	100
2008	54	194
2009	103	353
2010	130	390

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1090W, on immigrants: detainees, what the UK Border Agency's policy is concerning the retrieval of personal possessions by people who are not detained at home. [53154]

Damian Green: If individuals are not detained at home, for example, from their place of work following an illegal working visit, it is their responsibility to arrange the retrieval of their personal possessions via their family and friends. As stated in the previous answer, a limited number of possessions may be brought to the immigration removal centre and detainees are allowed to retain their mobile phones or use phone cards to facilitate this.

Assaults on Police

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were *(a)* shot at, *(b)* injured by shooting and *(c)* killed by shootings in each police force area in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [52389]

Nick Herbert: Available information relates to offences recorded by the police in England and Wales between 2005-06 and 2009-10 where a firearm (excluding air weapons) was fired and the victim was an on-duty police officer and is detailed in the following tables.

Crimes recorded by the police in which a firearm (excluding air weapons) was fired and the victim was an on-duty police officer: England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2009-10

Number of offences

	2005-06			*2006-07*			*2007-08*		
Police force area	*Total*	*Resulted in injury*[1]	*Resulted in fatal injury*	*Total*	*Resulted in injury*[1]	*Resulted in fatal injury*	*Total*	*Resulted in injury*[1]	*Resulted in fatal injury*
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Crimes recorded by the police in which a firearm (excluding air weapons) was fired and the victim was an on-duty police officer: England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2009-10

Number of offences

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
Police force area	*Total*	*Resulted in injury*[1]	*Resulted in fatal injury*	*Total*	*Resulted in injury*[1]	*Resulted in fatal injury*	*Total*	*Resulted in injury*[1]	*Resulted in fatal injury*
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North East Region	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	1	—	—	3	1	—	2	1	—
Lancashire	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	7	—
Merseyside	1	1	—	2	1	—	4	1	—
North West Region	4	3	—	6	3	—	13	9	—
Humberside	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	7	4	1	3	2	—	1	1	—
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	7	4	1	4	3	—	1	1	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
East Midlands Region	4	1	—	1	1	—	2	1	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	1
West Midlands	7	4	—	5	5	—	4	3	—
West Midlands Region	7	4	—	6	5	—	7	5	1
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
East of England Region	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan	9	6	—	5	3	—	6	1	—
London Region	9	6	—	5	3	—	6	1	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
South East Region	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
South West Region	2	2	—	4	4	—	2	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Crimes recorded by the police in which a firearm (excluding air weapons) was fired and the victim was an on-duty police officer: England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2009-10

Number of offences

Police force area	2005-06 Total	2005-06 Resulted in injury[1]	2005-06 Resulted in fatal injury	2006-07 Total	2006-07 Resulted in injury[1]	2006-07 Resulted in fatal injury	2007-08 Total	2007-08 Resulted in injury[1]	2007-08 Resulted in fatal injury
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wales	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	37	22	1	27	20	—	34	19	1

Number of offences

	2008-09 Total	2008-09 Resulted in injury[1]	2008-09 Resulted in fatal injury	2009-10 Total	2009-10 Resulted in injury[1]	2009-10 Resulted in fatal injury
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
North East Region	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	4	—	—	2	2	—
Lancashire	4	2	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West Region	8	2	—	2	2	—
Humberside	1	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	2	1	—
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	2	—	—	2	1	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	1	1	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	1	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Midlands Region	—	—	—	2	1	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	1	1	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands Region	2	1	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	2	2	—	3	3	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—
East of England Region	2	2	—	3	3	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan	10	4	—	9	9	—
London Region	10	4	—	9	9	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	1	—	—	3	—	—
South East Region	1	—	—	3	—	—

Number of offences

	2008-09			2009-10		
	Total	*Resulted in injury*[1]	*Resulted in fatal injury*	*Total*	*Resulted in injury*[1]	*Resulted in fatal injury*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
South West Region	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wales	1	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	26	9	—	22	16	—

[1] Includes fatal, serious (which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds) and slight injuries.

Crime

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes there have been in the methods of calculating crime statistics for *(a)* the British Crime Survey and *(b)* police recorded crime in each of the last 30 years. [52219]

Nick Herbert: The questions in the British Crime Survey that are asked to obtain victimisation estimates have not changed since the survey began in 1982 but there have been other methodological changes. These include: a change from running the survey every two or four years; asking about crime experienced in the preceding calendar year; a change to rolling interviewing from 2001 in which respondents are asked about crimes experienced in the previous 12 months; increases over time in the numbers of people interviewed to give greater precision around survey estimates; and since January 2009 an extension of the survey to cover children aged 10 to 15.

The coverage of the police recorded crime statistics have been affected both by the introduction of new legislation and changes in recording practices. In addition to the changes to the calculation of crime figures outlined below, there have been numerous other changes to both coverage and classification of recorded crime since their introduction in 1857.

There have been three major changes to police recorded crime in recent years. In April 1998, the recorded crime coverage was extended to include additional offences including some summary offences closely related to the existing ones.

At that time, the counting rules were also changed to place a greater emphasis on counting one crime per victim wherever possible.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced nationally on 1 April 2002 with the aim of promoting greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime and to take a more victim oriented approach to crime recording.

The 2005-06 annual crime publication included figures from the British Transport Police within the England and Wales totals for the first time.

The major changes are described in more detail in sections two and three of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics. A copy of the publication can be accessed at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/crimestats-userguide.pdf

and I will place a copy in the Library.

Crime Prevention: Vehicle Number Plates

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of cloned number plates were reported in each of the last three years. [52886]

James Brokenshire: This information is not held by the Home Office.

Renewable Energy

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much energy in kilowatt hours her Department purchased from renewable sources in each year from 1997-98 to 2005-06. [53504]

Damian Green: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The following recorded figures cover a different range of buildings over the requested time period, during which the scope of the estate changed. As the Home Office has transferred responsibility for the prisons estate to the Ministry of Justice their figures are excluded entirely.

	Renewable energy purchased (kWh)
1997-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	0
2000-01	4,628,468
2001-02	24,962,370
2002-03	36,144,725
2003-04	39,772,601

	Renewable energy purchased (kWh)
2004-05	42,265,022
2005-06	49,018,619

Detention Centres: Families

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases families with children under immigration controls were *(a)* required to report daily, *(b)* given curfews, *(c)* tagged and *(d)* subject to additional enforcement visits to monitor compliance in the last 12 months. [52848]

Damian Green: While the UK Border Agency holds information on family cases requested to report daily, this is not centrally recorded and to provide this information would require a manual case by case search at disproportionate cost.

When an applicant is tagged they are also subject to a monitoring period (a curfew) so essentially these are the same. In the last 12 months (April 2010-March 2011) eight family cases were identified as being electronically monitored.

UKBA monitor compliance electronically using a tag and a monitoring unit.

Enforcement visits are not conducted to monitor compliance in any circumstances. The only enforcement visits UKBA conduct would be with a view to arrest or remove.

Figures provided are provisional, based on management information, not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and may be subject to change.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what proportion of immigration cases family court proceedings or legal applications prevented removal for the majority of the parent's time in detention in the latest period for which figures are available. [52849]

Damian Green: The information requested is not held centrally by the UK Border Agency.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to determine the length of time afforded to a family to consider voluntary return. [52850]

Damian Green: The length of time afforded to families to return voluntarily is determined by the UK Border Agency on case by case basis. Families being taken through the new returns process introduced from March 2011 have at least two weeks between a Family Return Conference and a Family Departure Conference to make efforts to return voluntarily. However, families will have had opportunities to consider and take voluntary return prior to the Family Return Conference, and will continue to do so as the return process progresses toward ensured return.

Guidance on this process is in chapter 45 of the Enforcement Instructions and guidance and can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement

DNA: Databases

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of maintaining the DNA database was in each year since 2006-07. [53415]

James Brokenshire: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 589W.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples were taken from people *(a)* charged and *(b)* cautioned in each police force area in each of the last five years. [53430]

James Brokenshire: This information is not held centrally.

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the five most common makes and models of vehicles stolen in each police authority area were in each of the last five years. [53462]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to identify the makes or models of vehicles stolen from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Extradition

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK nationals have been extradited to foreign countries in each month since May 2010; and to which destination in each case. [51651]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 26 April 2011]*: The information is as follows:

Extradition to EU member states

Since 1 January 2004, extradition between EU member states has been governed by the Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant (EAW). The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and Crown Office (for Scotland) are the designated central authorities for the receipt and transmission of EAWs in the UK.

SOCA's EAW figures for 2010-11 are currently being validated and will be ready in the near future.

Extradition to non-EU member states

The following table shows the number of UK nationals surrendered from England, Wales and Northern Ireland to non-EU countries from 1 May 2010 to 31 March 2011.

UK nationals surrendered to Part Two countries

	Number of UK nationals	*Destinations*
2010		
May	2	Australia and USA
June	0	—
July	0	—
August	0	—
September	0	—
October	0	—
November	0	—
December	0	—

UK nationals surrendered to Part Two countries

	Number of UK nationals	*Destinations*
2011		
January	0	—
February	2	Canada and USA
March	0	—

Human Trafficking

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to combat people trafficking. [52840]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to tackling human trafficking and we are determined to build on the UK's track record in supporting victims and fighting traffickers.

Despite the difficult financial climate we have set aside up to £2 million per annum for the next three years to fund support provision for adult victims of human trafficking. Furthermore, I recently wrote to the parliamentary scrutiny Committees announcing the Government's intention to opt in to the EU directive on human trafficking. This remains subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

We recognise the need to continually develop the Government's anti-trafficking work. The human trafficking strategy, due to be published shortly, will set out our next steps to tackle human trafficking.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her Department's budget for the Independent Police Complaints Commission was in each financial year since 2005-06; [52257]

(2) how many staff the Independent Police Complaints Commission employed in each year since 2005-06. [52262]

Nick Herbert: Details of the grant in aid provided by the Home Office to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in each financial year since 2005 are provided in the following table. In addition, the IPCC receives funding from the UK Border Agency and HM Revenue and Customs to fund its complaints investigation work in respect of those organisations, and the Security Industry Authority (SIA) for office space. The IPCC is operationally independent of the Home Office and staffing issues are a matter for it. However, the number of staff employed in each year since 2005 (as provided by the IPCC) is also shown.

Staffing of, and funding for, the IPCC from 1 April 2005 to 1 April 2011

Financial year	*Staff in post (number)*	*Resource (£)*	*Capital (£)*	*Total (£)*
2005-06	244	28,157,000	1,525,000	29,682,000
2006-07	340	31,273,000	2,100,000	33,373,000
2007-08	392	32,273,000	2,100,000	34,373,000
2008-09	378	33,273,000	1,500,000	34,773,000
2009-10	411	35,406,000	900,000	36,306,000
2010-11	463	35,365,000	1,000,000	36,365,000
2011-12	438	32,890,000	400,000	33,290,000

Offences Against Children

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children in contravention of a curfew notice were removed to their place of residence by *(a)* community support officers and *(b)* police officers in each police authority area under paragraph 4B of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002. [53483]

James Brokenshire: Paragraph 4B of schedule four to the Police Reform Act 2002 relates to the enforcement of local child curfew schemes which were introduced by sections 14 and 15 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Information on the number of local child curfew schemes and their enforcement was not collected centrally. However the Home Office is not aware that the power was ever used and the relevant provisions were repealed by the Police and Crime Act 2009.

Police Custody

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded of absconding from lawful custody in each year since 2007-08; and what proportion of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [53500]

James Brokenshire: The information is not available in the form requested.

Figures for the number of offences of absconding from lawful custody recorded by the police and the number detected by means of a sanction detection are given in the table. Statistics on court proceedings, including convictions, are a matter for the Ministry of Justice.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data is provided on a financial year basis and counts offences, whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Offences of absconding from lawful custody recorded by the police and detected by means of a sanction detection[1]—2007-08 to 2009-10

	Number of offences	*Number of sanction detections*	*Percentage detected by means of a sanction detection*
2007-08	830	687	83
2008-09	648	574	89
2009-10	558	449	80

[1] Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Police: Complaints

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints in each category of complaint *(a)* in total and *(b)* against police community support officers were received by the police complaints and discipline department of each police authority in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [52317]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collect the information requested. The Independent Police Complaints Commission has oversight of the system for complaints about the conduct of police officers and staff and is responsible for collecting and publishing relevant statistics.

Police: Fees and Charges

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy not to charge victims of crime for the recovery of their property from *(a)* the police and *(b)* those holding the property on behalf of the police. [52058]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) gives the police powers to seize property as part of an investigation into a criminal offence. PACE does not give the police any statutory powers to charge an individual for the return of any property seized under the act.

However, the police also have powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to remove or arrange the removal of any vehicle that is dangerously, illegally or obstructively parked or broken down or abandoned. This includes vehicles abandoned after being stolen. In these circumstances, the police are legally entitled to levy statutorily prescribed charges before releasing the vehicle to meet the costs they have necessarily incurred.

Police: Manpower

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers of each rank were in post in England and Wales on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of each such rank were identified as *(a)* black and (b) Asian. [52384]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is given in the table.

Asian and black police officer strength[1] by rank as at 31 March 2010

Police ranks	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or Black British*
ACPO rank	5	1
Chief Superintendent	8	2
Superintendent	10	9
Chief Inspector	24	16
Inspector	95	46
Sergeant	281	206
Constable	2,185	1,166

[1] This table contains full time equivalent figures which have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Police: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether her Department has carried out an impact assessment of the proposed changes to the Police Forces Pension Scheme; and what estimate she has made of the change in the opt-out rate resulting from implementation of those changes; [52279]

(2) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the proposed changes to the Police Forces Pension Scheme are sustainable and progressive; [52280]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effects of the proposed changes to the Police Forces Pension Scheme on part-time members of staff who are members of the scheme. [52281]

Nick Herbert: The Government have accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation, recognising that the position of the uniformed services will require particularly careful consideration. The Government have committed to ensuring that any proposed changes to public service pension schemes, including the police schemes, as a result of Lord Hutton's recommendations are affordable, sustainable, and fair to both the public sector workforce and the taxpayer.

Any proposed changes to the police pension schemes would be subject to the normal consultation process with the Police Negotiating Board in line with statutory obligations. Where appropriate, an equality impact assessment would be conducted to accompany proposed changes.

Police: Polling Stations

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are available to police attending polling stations on election days. [52302]

Mr Harper: I have been asked to respond as the Minister with responsibility for electoral policy.

The law places limits on attendance at polling stations. Rule 32 of the Parliamentary Elections Rules at Schedule 1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 sets out a list of people who are allowed to attend a polling station, which includes police constables on duty. Police officers at polling stations have their normal policing powers. Within polling stations, it is the Presiding Officer's duty to maintain order. Rule 33 of Schedule 1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that the Presiding Officer may direct police constables to remove persons who have either misconducted themselves in a polling station or have failed to obey a lawful order of the Presiding Officer.

Police: Recruitment

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to police forces on the treatment of candidates who have passed a final panel interview assessment for appointment as a constable but have not yet been accepted into service. [52025]

Nick Herbert: This is a matter for individual police forces.

Police: Training

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* are trained to handle digital evidence, *(b)* are serving with computer crime units and *(c)* have higher level forensic skills. [52385]

Nick Herbert: This information is not collected centrally.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially-motivated crimes were recorded in each police force area in each of the last five years. [52386]

Nick Herbert: The available statistics relate to racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police for some specific crime categories and are given in the table.

It is not possible to separately identify those of a racial nature from those of a religious nature.

Numbers of racially or religiously aggravated offences[1] recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2009-10

Police force area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	1,326	1,337	1,027	1,148	1,162
Bedfordshire	339	308	292	230	286
British Transport Police	1,088	1,188	1,316	1,287	1,218
Cambridgeshire	322	351	365	402	426
Cheshire	569	557	536	424	376
Cleveland	528	464	390	288	272
Cumbria	232	219	187	188	188
Derbyshire	494	492	554	469	548
Devon and Cornwall	818	809	696	588	731
Dorset	214	291	294	302	256
Durham	258	304	245	220	224
Dyfed-Powys	118	167	125	113	99
Essex	796	922	913	871	866
Gloucestershire	283	326	264	277	246
Greater Manchester	3,398	3,677	3,637	3,587	3,250
Gwent	289	269	234	205	268
Hampshire	1,120	1,326	1,320	1,089	1,002
Hertfordshire	985	954	846	709	697
Humberside	417	655	407	374	365
Kent	798	935	858	755	596
Lancashire	1,363	1,238	1,042	846	845
Leicestershire	1,007	1,055	941	953	903
Lincolnshire	200	143	101	155	101
London, City of	75	83	73	57	45
Merseyside	1,420	1,423	1,100	1,059	1,050
Metropolitan police	8,769	8,226	7,357	7,947	8,010
Norfolk	343	340	265	254	261
Northamptonshire	455	422	455	359	401
Northumbria	834	924	729	808	658
North Wales	396	356	316	300	292
North Yorkshire	205	234	172	191	203
Nottinghamshire	566	715	793	840	820
South Wales	713	555	611	610	629
South Yorkshire	1,032	1,037	927	774	668
Staffordshire	805	889	760	760	776
Suffolk	240	329	328	316	361
Surrey	845	588	305	328	348
Sussex	710	991	776	586	667
Thames Valley	1,128	1,483	1,233	1,350	1,238
Warwickshire	293	379	416	357	269
West Mercia	527	499	503	481	453
West Midlands	3,071	3,338	3,249	2,859	2,728
West Yorkshire	2,898	2,691	2,493	2,122	1,920
Wiltshire	260	253	196	207	206
England and Wales total	42,547	43,742	39,647	38,045	36,928

[1] Includes the following racially or religiously aggravated offences: GBH without intent, ABH or other injury, harassment, public fear, alarm or distress, assault without injury and criminal damage.

Sexual Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered *(a)* sex offenders and *(b)* sex offenders convicted of offences involving minors were resident in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [53507]

James Brokenshire: The total number of registered sex offenders residing within each of the 42 police authority areas in England and Wales is detailed within the published annual MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) Reports. The report for 2009-10 is available online via the following link:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http:/www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mappa.htm

The remaining data required to answer this question is not collected in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Smuggling: Tobacco

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have had tobacco seized from them at UK ports of entry in the last 12 months. [52913]

Damian Green: The following tables show the number and quantity of cigarette and hand rolling tobacco (HRT) seizures for the 2010-11 financial year.

Number and quantity of cigarette seizures: 2010-11

UKBA		*Number of seizures*	*Quantity seized*	*Average per seizure*
Air	Air courier	109	1,133,100	10,395
	Freight	829	24,415,180	29,451
	Other	942	7,329,967	7,781
	Passenger	23,840	80,670,773	3,384
	Total	25,720	113,549,020	4,415
Maritime	Accompanied RORO	388	166,304,975	428,621
	Container	1,278	238,529,151	186,643
	Freight-Other	16	7,991,640	499,478
	Other	141	14,100,115	100,001
	Tourist	1,167	9,695,093	8,308
	Unaccompanied RORO	58	15,453,817	266,445
	Total	3,048	452,074,791	148,319
Other UKBA[1]		13	4,417,740	339,826
Post[2]		—	80,019,119	—
	UKBA total	28.781	650,060,670	22,586

Number and quantity of hand rolling tobacco (HRT) seizures: 2010-11

UKBA		*Number of seizures*	*Quantity seized*	*Average per seizure*
Air	Air courier	100	3.654	37
	Freight	678	19,515	29
	Other	305	9,429	31
	Passenger	6,449	27,908	4
	Total	7,532	60,505	8
Maritime	Accompanied RORO	380	40,479	107
	Container	507	25,544	50
	Freight-Other	6	12,047	2,008
	Other	37	2,775	75
	Tourist	2,312	22,532	10
	Unaccompanied RORO	26	2,651	102
	Total	3,268	106,028	32
Other UKBA[1]		7	2,967	424
Post[2]		—	145,274	—

Number and quantity of hand rolling tobacco (HRT) seizures: 2010-11

UKBA		*Number of seizures*	*Quantity seized*	*Average per seizure*
	UKBA total	10,807	314,775	29

[1] The 'Other UKBA' seizures are mostly seizures at Inland Fast Parcel clearing locations and should be included within the Border total.

[2] Due to the practice of bulk recording, i.e. recording multiple packages as a single seizure, the number of postal seizures is not reported.

Note:

The data provided in the tables relate to all seizures made by UKBA at British ports of entry. Our records do not link the number of seizures directly to individuals as some seizures are not accompanied by a person, e.g. unaccompanied freight and in the postal environments, and also some seizures are made from repeat offenders.

Terrorism: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to protect the 2012 London Olympics from terrorist threat. [52180]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office's Olympic and Paralympic safety and security strategy, run by the police, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the Olympic Delivery Authority and other partners, provides a framework for projects to safeguard and secure London 2012.

The police and security services already invest significant resource into planning for terrorist and other major risks to the UK, and have considerable expertise in dealing with both threats and incidents. Our approach to the games is intelligence-led and risk-based, giving us the flexibility to respond to any changes between now and 2012. Regular threat assessments inform our risk management process. Threat levels may change rapidly, and by basing the plans against a SEVERE threat level we maximise our flexibility.

Last year the Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism conducted an audit and review of Olympic security planning, and that concluded that that work is well placed. There is of course more work to be done, but an effective foundation has already been established. We have protected the Olympic security budget, which is in addition to core funding for the police and counter-terrorism.

UK Border Agency: Firearms

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many UK Border Agency enforcement team staff held a valid firearms licence in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement; [53096]

(2) how many firearms were purchased by the UK Border Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [53097]

Damian Green: There are no UKBA staff licensed to carry firearms on duty and no firearms have been purchased in the previous 10 years.

Vetting

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of staff recruited to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies were required to have a Criminal Records Bureau check before an offer of employment was made in each year since 2008-09. [53371]

Damian Green: Home Office HQ, UK Border Agency (UKBA), Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) do not currently require staff to undertake CRB checks prior to being offered employment and have not undertaken any such checks on new recruits prior to an offer of employment in any year since 2008-09.

UKBA only carry out checks after an offer of employment has been made when a role consists of dealing with children or vulnerable adults.

Work Permits

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis was for the removal of the senior care worker category from the tier 2 shortage occupation list. [52784]

Damian Green: Senior care workers were removed from the Government's shortage occupation list following advice and analysis conducted by the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). The MAC found that the occupation is not skilled to NVQ4 level, a key requirement in tier 2 of the Points Based System. The MAC report can be found on their website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people being treated for alcohol addiction in each primary care trust are being prescribed *(a)* acamprosate and *(b)* disulfiram. [52445]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of patients prescribed a medicine and the condition for which that medicine is prescribed is not collected centrally. However, a table has been placed in the Library containing information on the number of dispensed prescription items that were prescribed within each primary care trust for acamprosate calcium and disulfiram, for the latest available 12 month period, October 2009 to September 2010.

Autism: Health Services

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of provision of health care services for people with autism. [52099]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of national health service organisations to ensure they commission appropriate health care services for people with autism.

Statutory guidance for health and social care bodies to support delivery of the Government's autism strategy for England—"Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives"—was published on 17 December 2010. This sets out in particular that NHS bodies should develop (with local authorities) local commissioning plans for services for adults with autism, basing these in good information and effective needs analysis with the aim of improving the health outcomes of people with autism.

Blood: Contamination

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Colne Valley of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 399-400W, on blood: contamination, what criteria he used to determine the 31 March 2011 deadline; and for what reasons no consultation was held before the deadline was determined; [52283]

(2) if he will review the need for any deadline date to be set for surviving spouses to register an interest in compensation schemes for those infected with hepatitis C as a result of NHS treatment. [52338]

Anne Milton: The deadline was set at 31 March 2011 because we considered that the 12-week window of opportunity this offered to register an intention to make a claim was reasonable. Consultation on the deadline was not considered necessary.

As I stated in my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Colne Valley (Jason McCartney) on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 399-400W, the Skipton Fund will consider registrations that are made after 31 March 2011, on a case by case basis, where there is a valid reason for the applicant to have missed the registration deadline.

Blood: Donors

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the exclusion from blood donations of men who have sex with men, if he will make it his policy only to exclude blood donors *(a)* who have engaged in risky sexual behaviour and *(b)* whose HIV status cannot be accurately determined because of the delay between the date of infection and the date when the HIV virus and HIV antibodies manifest and become detectable in an infected person's blood; and if he will make a statement. [53287]

Mr Simon Burns: The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) is currently reviewing the evidence base for donor exclusion and deferral in the United Kingdom, including criteria which relate to sexual behaviour.

Once the review is complete, SaBTO will make recommendations to UK Health Departments as to whether any changes to the current policy are warranted.

Brighton and Hove: Funding

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department were available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and (d) 2010-11; how much was available in such grants; how many such grants were made; and how much was awarded in such grants; [51842]

(2) how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department were available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in 2011-12; how much is available in such grants; how many such grants have been made; and how much is to be awarded in such grants in the next 12 months. [51851]

Paul Burstow: The following tables show the ring-fenced grants provided by the Department that were available to Brighton and Hove city council from 2007-08 to 2010-11. Table 1 shows the total funding that was available at national level for each grant, and Table 2 sets out the amount that was allocated to Brighton and Hove city council.

Table 1: Grant totals (national level)

£000

Grant	*Revenue/ Capital*	*Bid-Based?*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service	R	N	14,625	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Individual Budget Pilots	R	Y	6,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Partnerships for Older People Pilots (POPPS)	R	Y	40,000	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Learning Disability Campus Closure Programme	R	N	n/a	14,000	31,000	[1]—
Supported Capital Expenditure (R) Mental Health	C	N	22,593	n/a	n/a	n/a
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	R	N	88,214	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Mental Health	R	N	132,900	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Improving Information Management	C	N	25,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
AIDS Support Grant	R	N	16,500	19,800	21,800	[1]—
Social Care Reform Grant	R	N	n/a	85,000	195,000	240,000
Stroke Strategy	R	N	n/a	15,000	15,000	[1]—
HIV Capital	C	Y	3,100	3,100	3,100	[1]—
Common Assessment framework	C	Y	n/a	n/a	11,000	[1]—
Social Care IT Infrastructure	C	N	n/a	15,000	16,000	[1]—

Table 2: Grant allocated to Brighton and Hove city council

£000

Grant	*Revenue/ Capital*	*Bid-Based?*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service	R	N	75	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Individual Budget Pilots	R	Y	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Partnerships for Older People Pilots (POPPS)	R	Y	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Learning Disability Campus Closure Programme	R	N	n/a	0	0	[1]—
Supported Capital Expenditure (R) Mental Health	C	N	133	n/a	n/a	n/a
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	R	N	461	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Mental Health	R	N	804	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Improving Information Management	C	N	134	n/a	n/a	n/a
AIDS Support Grant	R	N	292	357	429	[1]—
Social Care Reform	R	N	n/a	414	956	1,167
Stroke Strategy	R	N	n/a	94	94	[1]—
HIV Capital	C	Y	0	0	0	[1]—
Common Assessment framework	C	Y	n/a	n/a	0	[1]—
Social Care IT Infrastructure	C	N	n/a	76	80	[1]—

n/a means that the grant was not allocated that year

[1] Un-ringfenced. This means that the grant was still being allocated, but was issued without conditions on expenditure and could be used to fund any local authority activity.

Note:

No ring-fenced grants were allocated by the Department for 2011-12. At the time of the spending review, the Department announced that revenue grant funding had been maintained in real terms for 2011-12. We have also allocated an additional £1 billion by 2014-15, through local government, to support social care. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, these funding streams will go to authorities through the general local government formula grant.

Bristol Homeopathic Hospital

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet the representatives of United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust to discuss the future of the Bristol Homeopathic hospital; and if he will make a statement. [53286]

Mr Simon Burns: Responsibility for decisions on what types of treatments are most suitable for patients and where they should be provided lies with treating clinicians and commissioners within the national health service. University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust is a foundation trust, and so is regulated by Monitor. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Monitor or University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust about this issue.

CJD

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have died as a result of infection with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in the last 20 years. [52334]

Anne Milton: The National Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Surveillance Unit publishes figures each month for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease on their website at:

www.cjd.ed.ac.uk/figures.htm

These record that between 1995 and 4 April 2011, 171 people died of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Continuing Care

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 76W, on epilepsy: Brighton, for what reasons *(a)* he has made no assessment of the progress being made towards implementation of the National Service Framework for long-term conditions (NSF) and *(b)* no mid-term review of the NSF has been undertaken; what responsibility his Department has to ensure effective implementation of the NSF for long-term conditions; by what mechanism the progress made by local health bodies within the 10- year timescale from publication will be assessed; and if he will make a statement. [52497]

Paul Burstow: The White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" places outcomes at the heart of health policy and this fits well with the aspirations of the National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions (the 'NSF'). The NSF focused on achieving a better experience and better outcomes for those with a long term condition but did not prescribe the processes by which this should be achieved. Delivery was left by the last Government to the national health service to resolve.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, general practitioner (GP) led commissioning consortia will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of NHS services. GPs, in partnership with other local healthcare professionals such as therapists and community nurses, are best placed to understand the health needs of local populations and how to work with their local populations—including patient-led organisations such as the Neurological Alliance, and other service users—to design services that meet those needs.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for assessment of the performance of GP consortia. The board will draw on the national outcome goals in the NHS Outcomes Framework to develop a new Commissioning Outcomes Framework. Measures from the Commissioning Outcomes Framework will be used by the Board to hold GP consortia to account for the quality of services they commission and the health outcomes they achieve for patients.

Fluoride

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his policy that future decisions about the fluoridation of water supplies shall be taken by elected local authorities following the abolition of strategic health authorities. [52429]

Anne Milton: Yes. We propose that local authorities should conduct consultations and ascertain public opinion on proposals for new fluoridation schemes, while contracts for existing (and any new) schemes will become the responsibility of the Secretary of State.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the outcome of fluoridation exercises in countries where health authorities (i) continue to and (ii) have ceased administration of fluoride to water supplies; and if he will make a statement. [52432]

Anne Milton: A Systematic Review of Water Fluoridation, which was commissioned by the Department from the university of York in 1999 and published in 2000, showed that, on the best available evidence, fluoridation increased the proportion of children without tooth decay by 15% and that children in fluoridated areas had, on average, 2.25 fewer teeth affected by decay than children in non-fluoridated areas.

Evidence from epidemiological surveys of child dental health, which are carried out at regular intervals, confirms that these benefits continue. An example of the effects of cessation is provided by a study of Anglesey[1] where fluoridation commenced in 1955, became intermittent from 1987 and ceased in 1991. In 1987-88, the last year of optimal fluoridation, the mean number of decayed, missing and filled teeth (dmft) of five-year-old children was 0.80. By 1993 average dmft had increased to 2.01 with a dmft of 1.81 among those who had experienced fluoridation during approximately 35 % of their lives and one of 2.28 for those who had experienced fluoridation for less than 10% of their lives.

Fluoride: Southampton

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the proceedings of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Hampshire county council of 14 March 2011, what reports he has received on the plans of South Central Strategic Health Authority to proceed with fluoridation of drinking water supplies in and near Southampton; and if he will call in these plans for review. [52431]

Anne Milton: We understand that on 31 March, South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) asked Southern Water to proceed with the fluoridation of drinking water in Southampton and part of South West Hampshire following the outcome of the judicial review, which upheld the SHA's decision. The relevant legislation provides for these decisions to be taken locally.

Health Services

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism has been put in place to ensure that local capacity to deliver *(a)* weight management services and *(b)* other public health services is maintained during the transfer of responsibility for public health from primary care trusts to local authorities. [52504]

Anne Milton: The detailed arrangements for public health staff are for local determination between primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities.

The NHS Operating Framework states that during the transition year (2011-12) the national health service must continue to lead on improvements to public health, ensuring that public health services are in the strongest possible position when responsibilities are devolved to local authorities. As PCTs and local authorities begin to deliver significant cost savings, it is important to recognise the need to retain specialist public health skills. Sir David Nicholson reaffirmed this in his most recent transition letter to the NHS of 17 February 2011.

Influenza: Vaccination

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will reconsider his policy on offering H1N1 vaccines to children between the age of six months and five years. [52382]

Anne Milton: The Government's policy on influenza vaccination is informed by the expert advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Current vaccination policy is to offer seasonal influenza vaccine to all people aged 65 years and over, and to individuals from six months of age who have a clinical condition which puts them more at risk of the effects of influenza. JCVI does not recommend that healthy children outside the risk groups should be vaccinated.

At its meeting on 2 February 2011, JCVI reviewed the available evidence, and advised that the groups of patients recommended for influenza vaccination in the 2011-12 influenza season remain unchanged. The Health Protection Agency is currently undertaking a study on the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of seasonal flu vaccines. This paper will be peer-reviewed and will be considered at the October 2011 JCVI meeting. It will inform the Committee's advice about the groups that should be offered seasonal influenza vaccine in the future.

Liver Diseases: Screening

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of a fibroscan in determining the level of liver damage in each case of hepatitis C caused by infection as a result of NHS treatment; [52335]

(2) what arrangement he has made to ensure that those infected with hepatitis C as a result of their NHS treatment are able to undergo a fibroscan. [52336]

Anne Milton: The Department received expert advice, during the review of the support available to individuals infected with hepatitis C and/or HIV by national health service supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants, that measurement of liver elastography, such as by fibroscan, could provide additional but non-obligatory information to support a diagnosis of cirrhosis in those infected with hepatitis C, alongside other relevant clinical information. It is for clinicians to decide what tests to offer their patients.

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[1] Fluoridation in Anglesey 1993: a clinical study of dental caries in five-year-old children who had experienced sub-optimal fluoridation F. D. Thomas/J. Y. Kassab and B. M. Jones *British Dental Journal* 178, 55-59 (1995)

Medical Records: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements there are to enable British citizens resident overseas to gain access to their NHS medical records. [53167]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), all patients have the right to apply for access to copies of their national health service health records. Requests are made in writing to the record holder, and a fee is payable, set at a maximum of £50.

Former patients living outside of the United Kingdom who have received treatment in the UK have the same rights under the DPA to apply for access to their NHS health records as someone making an access request from within the UK, and NHS organisations will treat these requests the same.

Myasthenia Gravis: Drugs

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of EU orphan drugs legislation on the cost of provision of medical treatments for rare forms of myasthenia gravis. [53169]

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of establishing a review of drugs legislation to ensure that patients with rare neuromuscular conditions such as myasthenia gravis have adequate access to treatments and that the treatments provide best value for money. [53066]

Mr Simon Burns: A range of treatments is available to national health service patients for myasthenia gravis. It is for the local NHS to decide what treatment is clinically appropriate for patients.

We are working to introduce a new system of pricing for medicines, where the price of a drug will be linked to its assessed value. We have consulted on our proposals to ensure that clinicians and patients will have better access to licensed and effective drugs when the current Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme expires at the end of 2013 and we are now considering the responses received.

Rewards to companies under the European Union orphan medicines scheme should be proportionate to the effort and cost incurred. If there is evidence of systematic use of the orphan drug legislation in circumstances where companies are not incurring substantial research and development costs, then we would consider pressing for a change in the European legislation.

National Institute of Health Research: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has set benchmarks for the performance of the National Institute of Health Research as conditions for securing public funding. [52488]

Mr Simon Burns: From autumn 2011, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding will become conditional on organisations playing their part in the national research governance system. The Government will launch a framework of standard procedures and good practice for local health research management—the NIHR Research Support Services framework—by May 2011. Recipients of NIHR funding will regularly publish metrics on their performance in initiating and delivering health research. When deciding on funding, the NIHR will take account of performance against public NIHR benchmarks, including an initial benchmark of 70 days from receipt of a valid research protocol to recruitment of the first participant in a study.

NHS

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will reverse his decision not to publish the legal advice he has received relating to EU competition law as it will affect the NHS under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill; and for what reason he reached this decision. [53064]

Mr Simon Burns: Legal advice was integral to the Department's advice to Ministers on the introduction of the Health and Social Care Bill. However, no separate legal advice was commissioned by officials on the impact of the Bill on the application of European Union competition law to the national health service; this is because the Health and Social Care Bill does not change current United Kingdom or EU competition legislation.

The Government do not routinely publish official advice from Departments to Ministers.

NHS: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 98 of The Plan for Growth, what proportion of the actions on health care and life sciences are to be funded by his Department. [52485]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has lead responsibility for 12 of the 16 actions listed on page 98 of the Plan for Growth document (actions numbered one to seven and 12 to 16). Provision has been made in the Department's spending review settlement to take forward these actions. Action 14 is jointly being taken forward with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Technology Strategy Board is providing £18 million for an assisted living technology investment programme.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has lead responsibility for the remaining four actions (actions numbered eight to 11). Provision will be made, where appropriate, within BIS's existing budget to take forward these actions.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much debt each NHS trust has accrued directly as a result of private finance initiative contracts; [53045]

(2) what each NHS trust's annual repayment figure is for private finance initiative contracts; [53046]

(3) what the annual interest for repayment of private finance initiative contracts is for each NHS trust. [53047]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the estimated revenue payments for the lifetime of each health sector private finance initiative contract can be found on the Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pfi_signed_projects_list_march2011.xls

These are the latest estimates collected from each Department for the March 2011 Budget Report; the health sector schemes are clearly marked "DH-Acute (i.e. Hospitals)". The table includes information on payments already made (i.e. for financial years preceding 2011-12) and estimated for the remaining contract period. The payment figures include not just the financing costs for initial construction but also all the other services such as building maintenance and support services (cleaning, catering, portering etc.) provided over the lifetime of the contract. The figures also include an annual uprate assumption for inflation of 2.5%.

Information on the interest rates incurred on the principal debt finance and any equity finance (i.e. the financing costs referred to above) can be found in the Business Cases for each scheme, which NHS trusts are required to make publicly available. The information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing his proposed NHS reforms *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust area. [51835]

Mr Simon Burns: The costs were published in the impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill. The estimated national cost is £1.4 billion.

The Department has not estimated a regional breakdown of this figure, as this will depend on local decisions.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a representative of public health will be included on the NHS Future Forum; and if he will make a statement. [53054]

Mr Simon Burns: Dr Frank Atherton, President of the Association of Directors of Public Health, is a member of the NHS Future Forum, and has been included to represent public health.

Obesity

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts do not have an obesity lead staff member in post owing to a staff member leaving or having been made redundant in the last six months; [52505]

(2) how many strategic health authorities do not have an obesity lead staff member in post owing to a staff member leaving or having been made redundant in the last six months. [52506]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected by the Department.

Staffing arrangements are a matter for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. The NHS Operating Framework states that during the transition year (2011-12) the national health service must continue to lead on improvements to public health ensuring that public health services are in the strongest possible position when responsibilities are devolved to local authorities.

Skin Piercing: Children

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to issue new guidance to local authorities on the regulation of ear and body piercing of minors. [52127]

Anne Milton: We have no current plans to issue new guidance to local authorities on the regulation of cosmetic ear or body piercing of minors.

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of minors affected by medical complications associated with ear and body piercing. [52128]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold information on the number of minors affected by medical complications associated with ear and body piercing.

Skipton Fund

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he took to ensure that widows and trustees of those who were infected with hepatitis C as a result of NHS treatment and subsequently died were aware of the 31 March deadline for registering their interest in making a posthumous claim to the Skipton Fund. [52322]

Anne Milton: Since the announcement on 10 January 2011, these new payments have been publicised in a variety of ways such as by a press release, by relevant internet sites, by campaign groups such as the Hepatitis C Trust, and by Twitter. A full list of the electronic communications that have been utilised has been placed in the Library.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health following an award of Stage 2 payment from the Skipton Fund to an individual, what additional payment is to be made to the *(a)* surviving spouse and *(b)* dependants of the individual following his or her death; and for what period surviving spouses and dependants will continue to receive the annual payment of £12,800. [52337]

Anne Milton: The annual payments of £12,800 are made to infected individuals only, so will cease on their death. Widows and dependants of infected individuals will be eligible to apply for discretionary payments from the Caxton Foundation on the basis of need. It will be for the trustees of the charity to determine to whom the beneficiaries payment is made, and how much.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what organisations hold the records of the surviving spouses and trustees of those who were infected with hepatitis C as a result of NHS treatment and subsequently died. [52339]

Anne Milton: No organisation holds all the records of the widows, trustees or other representatives of patients who were infected with hepatitis C as a result of treatment with national health service blood and blood products and subsequently died.

The Skipton Fund deals only with infected individuals or their trustees, although it has previously dealt with a very small number of estates of individuals who died in the period between the announcement of the scheme on 29 August 2003, and 5 July 2004, when it was launched and began processing applications. It has never held any records of individuals who died prior to 29 August 2003.

Haemophilia centres are also checking their records, as far as it is possible to do so, to identify any families of infected patients who may have recently died. However, many records will have been destroyed if the individual died some time ago. There is also no guarantee that widows or former dependants would still be at the address shown in the records, or that they will necessarily be the beneficiaries of the estate.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surviving spouses of those infected with hepatitis C as a result of NHS treatment, who have subsequently died, *(a)* were contacted before the 31 March deadline for applications to the Skipton Fund and *(b)* registered their interest in making a posthumous claim with the Skipton Fund by the deadline. [52340]

Anne Milton: There are two potential claims that can be made to the Skipton Fund by the estate of an individual infected with hepatitis C as a result of national health service treatment who has subsequently died. The first is the additional £25,000 for those who had already received a Stage 2 payment, some of whom will have died since receiving their initial payment, but before the 10 January 2011 announcement. The second is posthumous claims in respect of those who died before the Skipton Fund was announced on 29 August 2003, and who were previously ineligible to apply.

As at 31 March 2011, 140 estates in England had applied to the Skipton Fund for the additional Stage 2 payment of £25,000, and 472 estates in England had registered an intention to claim in respect of the pre-2003 deceased. Prior to 31 March 2011, the Skipton Fund pro-actively contacted all existing Stage 2 recipients in England on their database who had not otherwise come forward, at their last known telephone number. Of the 140 eligible claims, 34 were identified by the ring-round. It is not known who the estates are in respect of the pre-2003 deceased, so it was not possible to make pro-active contact.

For both types of claim, we do not know how many of those making the application are widows of the deceased as opposed to other representatives of the individual's estate such as widowers, children, or other beneficiaries.

South Central Strategic Health Authority

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects *(a)* the South Central Strategic Health Authority to be abolished and *(b)* its functions to be assumed by local authorities in Hampshire. [52430]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government announced on 4 April that they would take advantage of a natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to pause, listen, reflect and improve the plans for modernising the national health service. As a result, subject to the listening exercise and the passage of the Bill, all of the statutory changes which were due to take place in April 2012 will now take place no earlier than July 2012. This revised time scale applies to the abolition of strategic health authorities such as South Central Strategic Health Authority.

Strategic health authorities' functions will transfer to a range of organisations, including the NHS Commissioning Board, Health Education England and local authorities. We intend that functions will be transferred at the point that strategic health authorities are abolished.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 3 May 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cleaning Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will make it his policy to require all cleaning contracts held with the House of Commons Service to stipulate that the cleaning products used should be EU Ecolabel products accredited by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and if he will make a statement. [52371]

John Thurso: The two Houses have one cleaning contract. The contractor has worked with the principal supplier of the cleaning materials that they use on the parliamentary estate to improve sustainability and minimise environmental impact. Although the particular products supplied to Parliament do not carry the EU Ecolabel they are super-concentrates, which are designed for use on a large scale and can provide even better sustainability benefits, typically in terms of transport, packaging and CO_2 emissions. Super-concentrates are also considerably cheaper. Some essential supplies such as sanitisation products are, by their nature, incompatible with the requirements of the EU Ecolabel.

I have asked the House's Director General of Facilities to write to the hon. Member with more detailed information, and a copy of that letter will be placed in the Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bees

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage growth of the bee population in England. [53679]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is undertaking a number of steps to protect honey bee health, including control of statutory diseases, preparing for exotic pests, a range of research projects and implementation of the Healthy Bees Plan. This is a 10-year plan published by DEFRA in 2009 to achieve a sustainable and healthy population of honey bees. The Food and Environment Research Agency is working closely with beekeepers to implement the plan. An important part of this work is education and training of beekeepers, given their important role in sustaining the population of honey bees. These are a managed species whose population size is determined by the number of beekeepers, which has grown in recent years due to an increasing interest in beekeeping, the number of colonies they manage, their beekeeping skills and the time of year, given seasonal fluctuations in the size of colonies.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1133W, on bovine tuberculosis: disease control, in what month she proposes to announce her decision; and if she will make a statement. [53660]

Mr Paice: We received a large number of responses to our consultation, which we are considering carefully. This is a difficult and sensitive issue and we need to get it right. We will announce our decision as part of a comprehensive and balanced TB eradication programme for England as soon as possible.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bovine TB were confirmed in Kent in each of the last 10 years. [53670]

Mr Paice: There were fewer than 10 confirmed reactor cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis (TB) control measures in Kent in each of the last 10 years. For data protection reasons, we do not disclose figures that total fewer than 10, as this may lead to identification of individual cases.

Note:

Data are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Source:

DEFRA's Animal Health Database (Vetnet)

Catering

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the provision of country of origin information on menus in restaurants and cafeterias in Government buildings. [52678]

Mr Paice: There is no legal requirement for restaurants or cafeterias to give country of origin information on menus. However, if they do, it must not mislead.

I have welcomed the introduction, by the food industry, of voluntary principles on country of origin labelling. In the case of caterers, these state that they should be able to provide the origin of the meat, meat products and dairy products either on the menu, on accompanying literature or, at the very least, when the information is requested by the consumer. Among the criteria being considered for the forthcoming Government buying standards for food and catering services is the inclusion of these principles for all central Government catering operations.

Cereal Products

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effects of removal of Common Agricultural Policy subsidies from cereal producers on the cost of feed for UK pig producers. [52853]

Mr Paice: Feed prices are largely determined by the supply and demand situation on the world market.

Although we have made no specific assessment of the likely effects of the removal of Common Agricultural Policy subsidies from cereal producers on the cost of feed for UK pig producers, the FAPRI-UK project "Impact of HM Treasury/DEFRA's Vision for the Common Agricultural Policy on Agriculture in the UK", published in 2009, looked at a scenario where the single farm payment (SFP) was phased out, to be replaced by environmental payments, and agricultural trade was significantly liberalised. It concluded that "the phased elimination of the SFP on top of further trade liberalisation [would have] a small impact on the crop sector". The report projected total feedstuff costs to be 7% lower by 2018 under this scenario, although this primarily reflects a projected fall in livestock numbers.

We are working in Europe with member states and industry to find ways to improve the overall situation for pig producers through discussions in the Commission's Enlarged Pig Meat Advisory Group.

Farming

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the capacity of the farming industry to participate in the small companies research and development tax credit scheme. [49852]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

R&D tax relief is available to limited companies which carry out qualifying R&D within the definition laid out in guidelines published by BIS.

The relief is not sector specific and could be claimed by any company in the agriculture sector which engages in a project to:

> 'achieve an advance in science or technology through the resolution of scientific or technological uncertainty'.

Forests

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of users of public forests were *(a)* walkers, *(b)* cyclists and *(c)* horse riders in the latest period for which figures are available. [53260]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission has collected data at its principal recreation sites through on-site surveys since 2003.

Average figures from these surveys show that in England from 2003-09:

(a) 63% of visitors go for a walk;

(b) 32% of visitors ride a bike; and

(c) Horse riding visits are estimated at less than 1% of total visits.

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on local economic development of *(a)* cycling and *(b)* equestrian access to public forests. [53261]

Mr Paice: A study entitled "Valuing Forest Recreation Activities" was commissioned by the Forestry Commission and published in 2006.

The study estimated the local economic (income and employment) impacts of forest recreation. In particular, the study considered the mean local spend on forest recreation by horse-riders, general visitors, nature watchers and cyclists, mainly at public forests. Horse-riders generated the highest spend per visit but cycling and other activities were also found to generate significant levels of spending. Annual local expenditure at the sites surveyed in the New Forest and Thetford forest were over £60 million and £10 million respectively.

The full report can be found on the Forestry Commission's website at:

www.forestry.gov.uk

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to introduce regulations on corporate greenhouse gas reporting. [53031]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 323W, to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas).

Livestock: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress her Department has made in reducing risks to the health of farm animals. [52377]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's Animal Health and Welfare Strategy places particular emphasis on the prevention of disease. Working closely with farmers, the veterinary profession and others, we are making good progress:

We have successfully eliminated Bluetongue through a well co-ordinated vaccination campaign.

DEFRA conducted a public consultation at the end of 2010 on the Government's approach to tackling bovine tuberculosis (TB) and a badger control policy, which highlighted a number of planned changes to existing cattle measures to ensure that that they are better targeted on the basis of disease risk. We will be announcing a comprehensive and balanced TB eradication programme for England as soon as possible.

We have reviewed the implementation of the Veterinary Surveillance Strategy to ensure that risks and emerging threats are effectively identified and prioritised. We continually monitor and assess the global animal health situation to help inform risk-based controls on imports of animals and animal products.

The way we respond to disease outbreaks is also an important factor in reducing risk. The evaluation report of Exercise Silver Birch, a major national exercise designed to test the Government's ability to deal with a significant outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD), demonstrated the benefits of changes introduced since the 2001 FMD outbreak.

Livestock: Transport

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on the resumption of the transport of live animals in 2011; and if she will make a statement. [52765]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Ministers have had no discussions with their European counterparts on the resumption in 2011 of the transport of live animals for the purposes of further fattening and slaughter. This is a separate trade from the transport of animals for breeding purposes.

Although we would prefer to see animals slaughtered as close as practicable to their point of production, the trade in live animals between member states of the European Union is legitimate and is governed by Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

The European Commission is conducting a review of Regulation 1/2005 and the UK continues to provide the necessary input into this review. In preparation for the eventual publication of any formal proposal to amend the legislation, we will continue to engage with key stakeholders in order to build an evidence-base and gauge views/opinions on the Regulation's implementation and how it might be improved.

Trees: Phytophthora Ramorum

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action her Department is taking to eradicate *(a)* Phytophthora ramorum and *(b)* Phytophthora kernoviae in trees. [52854]

Mr Paice: The Food and Environment Research Agency and the Forestry Commission are jointly implementing the £25 million, five-year, Phytophthora Disease Management Programme until 2014.

The aim of the programme is to reduce pathogen inoculum to epidemiologically insignificant levels by removing sporulating host plants from high risk areas to reduce the risk of significant tree death and significant impact on heathlands within England and Wales.

"Phytophthora ramorum" has been found to be killing Japanese larch and removal of infected trees has become a priority. The disease has been confirmed at more than 100 sites and statutory powers are being used to require felling of up to 2,000 hectares of infected trees.

"Phytophthora kernoviae" appears to be more of a threat to deciduous trees and heathland and action under the programme includes monitoring for this disease and eradication of any plants found to be infected.

Water: Pollution

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures the Environment Agency has put in place to implement the recommendations of the National Audit Office in its report published in July 2010 on the Environment Agency's efforts to tackle diffuse water pollution in England. [53628]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has developed an action plan and associated governance arrangements to take forward the advice and recommendations highlighted in the recent diffuse pollution report.

The actions focus on reviewing and improving approaches to evidence, communication and measures in line with NAO recommendations. Actions include joint work with DEFRA, Natural England and other third parties, and link to the 'Catchment Management Approach' to River Basin Planning which was announced on 23 March 2011.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effects of water companies on the natural environment. [53636]

Richard Benyon: Work under the water framework directive involves assessing the current status of water bodies in each river basin and, for those that are failing, confirming the cause of failure. Where a failure is due to a water company discharge or abstraction, measures are included in the improvement plans for the water companies, which form part of their business plans. For the first cycle of river basin management plans, 25% of water body failures were due to water company discharges. However, 82% of the cost of all improvement measures is being funded by water companies. The last set of water company environmental improvement plans were approved in November 2009 and are published on the Environment Agency website.

For the second cycle, improvement plans will be confirmed in 2014 and included in the water company business plans.

The Environment Agency also measures environmental regulatory performance of the 10 major water and sewerage companies on an annual basis. This feeds into a published performance assessment, and leads to financial penalties and incentives for the companies depending on performance. The last assessment took place on 2009 data and was reported in October 2010. The collation and assessment of the 2010 data has now commenced.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

UK-Turkey Relations

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of bilateral relations between the UK and Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [53534]

Mr Lidington: We have excellent co-operation with Turkey on a wide range of issues, reaffirmed in a new Strategic Partnership signed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister during his visit to Turkey in July last year. Priority areas for co-operation include support to stability in the middle east, trade and investment, energy and migration.

Middle East

21. **Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the middle east; and if he will make a statement. [53542]

Mr Hague: The stability and security of our friends in the middle east remains our major concern. But no true stability can result from the repression of legitimate demands for political participation and the rule of law.

Nothing can justify the use of lethal force against peaceful demonstrators. We are supporting peaceful reform in Tunisia and Egypt, just as we are opposing violence elsewhere, and urging all Governments to respond positively to popular calls for better governance.

Ivory Coast

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Ivory Coast. [53543]

Mr Bellingham: We welcome the fact that President Ouattara has at last assumed the office to which he was elected last November.

He faces huge challenges including national reconciliation and economic rehabilitation. Those guilty of serious human rights abuses must also be held accountable.

We have told the President that he will have the support of the British Government in these efforts.

Council of Europe: Manpower

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff were employed by each institution of the Council of Europe for the purposes of *(a)* communication and *(b)* communication with the media in the latest period for which figures are available. [52686]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff were employed at each grade by *(a)* the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights in each of the last three years and *(b)* each institution of the Council of Europe; and what estimate he has made of staffing levels in the Council of Europe's institutions in each of the next three years. [52687]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the information requested, and has made no estimate of future staffing levels in the Council of Europe (CoE).

The Secretariat of the CoE has provided the following information:

Council of Europe staff: Numbers by grade working in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights; and total numbers working for the Council of Europe by grade

2008

Grade

	A1	*A2*	*A3*	*A4*	*A5*	*A6*	*A7*	*B1*	*B2*	*B3*	*B4*	*B5*	*B6*
HR Comm Office	1	1	5	2	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	—	—
Total staff by grade	49	133	252	137	63	32	9	20	278	468	216	130	19

Grade

	C1	*C2*	*C3*	*C4*	*C5*	*C6*	*L1*	*L2*	*L3*	*L4*	*L5*	*Total*
HR Comm Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Total staff by grade	6	30	46	30	19	5	1	11	29	16	3	2,002

2009

Grade

	A1	*A2*	*A3*	*A4*	*A5*	*A6*	*A7*	*B1*	*B2*	*B3*	*B4*	*B5*	*B6*
HR Comm Office	2	1	4	2	—	1	—	—	2	3	2	—	—
Total staff by grade	38	140	273	139	63	32	9	13	264	503	235	143	19

Grade

	C1	*C2*	*C3*	*C4*	*C5*	*C6*	*L1*	*L2*	*L3*	*L4*	*L5*	*Total*
HR Comm Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Total staff by grade	3	49	47	32	19	4	1	8	30	15	4	2,083

2010

Grade

	A1	*A2*	*A3*	*A4*	*A5*	*A6*	*A7*	*B1*	*B2*	*B3*	*B4*	*B5*	*B6*
HR Comm Office	2	5	4	2	—	1	—	—	2	4	2	—	—
Total staff by grade	23	148	287	142	62	34	10	5	274	533	252	151	18

Grade

	C1	*C2*	*C3*	*C4*	*C5*	*C6*	*L2*	*L3*	*L4*	*L5*	*Total*
HR Comm Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Total staff by grade	3	55	47	30	17	4	8	33	15	4	2,155

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50194]

Mr Lidington: The information is as follows:

(a) and *(b)*: All Ministers have used a car in the last week.

(i) and (ii): This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51387]

Mr Lidington: In 2010-11, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) filled 21 Fast Stream programme and 30 other vacancies for UK-based staff through external recruitment campaigns. This represents a vacancy rate of approximately 1.02%.

In 2011-12, the FCO expects to take on a similar number of applicants to the Fast Stream programme to last year. The Fast Stream recruitment programme is exempt from the Government-wide recruitment freeze.

It is not possible to provide an overall figure for vacancy rates in 2011-12. External vacancies arise only when roles are not filled either internally or from across Whitehall and it is difficult to predict these in advance.

Diplomatic Service

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of his Department's consular support to British nationals involved in conflicts or natural disasters overseas. [53526]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has in recent months responded to an unprecedented number of crises. We have deployed significant resources to provide immediate, emergency consular assistance to British nationals. Overall the support has been excellent. However, there are lessons to be learnt and the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), commissioned a review to examine the FCO's arrangements for leading the evacuation of British nationals in a crisis, and, as he informed the House on 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W, we will publish the report of the review.

In the meantime, we are ensuring that our responses in Syria and elsewhere are reflecting our experiences of earlier crises.

European External Action Service: Manpower

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current staffing level is of the European External Action Service; and what the expected full staffing level is of that service. [52685]

Mr Lidington: There are currently 3,720 staff slots in the European External Action Service (EEAS). The 2012 draft Budget includes plans for 27 new posts. These, and any future additional staff slots would have to be agreed by the EU member states. We are pressing the EEAS to adhere to the agreed principle of budget neutrality.

Exports: Asbestos

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the risks associated with the export of asbestos from Commonwealth states to other Commonwealth states at the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in October 2011. [51756]

Mr Lidington: It is for the hosts and the Commonwealth Secretariat to set the agenda for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, Australia. We have every confidence that the agenda will meet the priorities of all member states.

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government of Gibraltar received from his Department in each of the last five years. [52069]

Mr Lidington: The Government of Gibraltar have not received any funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the last five years.

Gibraltar: Spain

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the dispute involving the Spanish police and the Royal Gibraltar Police; and if he will make a statement. [53841]

Mr Lidington: We have received information from the Gibraltar authorities and the Spanish Government about the incident involving the Royal Gibraltar Police (RGP) and the Spanish Guardia Civil (GC) on Sunday 24 April in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW).

The incident occurred during the attempted seizure of a suspect vessel thought to be smuggling drugs. Two suspected smugglers were arrested by Spanish officials and transported to Spain. The UK remains fully confident of its sovereignty over British Gibraltar Territorial Waters and we make this clear to the Spanish authorities on all appropriate occasions.

I discussed the issue of incursions by Guardia Civil vessels into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters with the Governor and the Chief Minister of Gibraltar during my visit to Gibraltar on 12 and 13 April.

The UK remains fully committed to the Trilateral Forum as the best means of improving co-operation to the benefit of all the people in the region. I am confident that both the Spanish and Gibraltar Governments share this aim. Judicial, customs and police co-operation is one of the six areas currently being developed under the auspices of the forum.

Iraq: Iran

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist the residents of Camp Ashraf. [52705]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy officials meet regularly with the UN Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI) and international partners to discuss the situation in Camp Ashraf. We remain concerned about recent developments and have urged the Iraqi authorities to take immediate steps to calm the situation at the camp; ensure that medical supplies are able to enter; and ensure that the human rights of camp residents are respected. We will continue to monitor developments at the camp closely.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Iraqi ambassador about recent attacks on Camp Ashraf by the Iraqi army. [52706]

Alistair Burt: Iraq is yet to appoint a new ambassador to the United Kingdom. However, following an incident on 8 April 2011 at Camp Ashraf, I released a statement calling on the Government of Iraq to cease violent operations in Camp Ashraf immediately.

Our embassy officials, including our ambassador in Baghdad, have raised concerns about the incident with the Iraqi President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Human Rights. We have made it clear to the Iraqi authorities that we deplore any loss of life and have urged them to set up an independent investigation into the incident.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 4 April 2011 about a constituent. [53789]

Mr Lidington: The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), replied to the hon. Member for Walsall North on 28 April 2011.

Palestinians

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on actions by the Palestinian Authority to honour Palestinian citizens that have participated in terrorist acts; and if he will make a statement. [52232]

Alistair Burt: The UK deplores all incitement to violence. The naming of a square after the leader of the 1978 terrorist attack would have been distasteful under any circumstances, but particularly so in the wake of the murders that occurred in Itamar. We also strongly oppose the payment of cash directly linked to acts of violence. Our Consulate General in Jerusalem will raise these issues with the Fatah Leadership.

We welcomed Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas' condemnation of the murders that occurred in Itamar. He said they were despicable, immoral and inhuman. We endorse President Abbas's commitment to a path of non-violence and a negotiated solution to the peace process.

Sri Lanka: Elections

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on voter registration of displaced civilians in the north of Sri Lanka during that country's recent local elections. [52870]

Alistair Burt: We have some concerns about the registration of voters in the north of Sri Lanka, particularly registration of the displaced population. Our high commission in Colombo has raised these concerns with the Government and is considering projects which might provide practical assistance with voter registration.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of civil society in Sri Lanka. [52869]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) 2010 Human Rights and Democracy Report highlights areas of progress, as well as the challenges that remain. The report is available on the FCO Website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/human-rights/around-the-world/human-rights-report/

We remain concerned about the difficult environment for civil society groups, media and opposition. Prominent human rights defenders have faced criticism from the Government, human rights organisations have experienced difficulties with visas to work in Sri Lanka and activists have been intimidated when carrying out their work. We continue to make our concerns known to the Government of Sri Lanka most recently when I met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 31 March 2011.

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the role of the military in civilian life in Sri Lanka. [53620]

Alistair Burt: Although the military conflict ended in May 2009, military personnel in Sri Lanka continue to maintain a significant presence. We are aware of increasing involvement by the Sri Lankan army in civilian activities, including law enforcement, particularly in the north. The Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence also control the Urban Development Authority. We believe the extension of military activity to areas of civilian life may hinder the reconciliation process.

Sri Lanka: Press Freedom

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on media freedom in Sri Lanka. [53619]

Alistair Burt: We monitor the issue of media freedom in Sri Lanka closely. The media there continues to operate in a difficult environment. We regularly urge the Government of Sri Lanka to take decisive action to guarantee press freedom and raise particular cases of concern. Our 2010 Human Rights and Democracy Report:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/human-rights/around-the-world/human-rights-report/

highlights areas of progress as well as the challenges that remain.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Royal Ulster Constabulary: Catholicism

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary were *(a)* Catholic and *(b)* Protestant at the time it was disbanded. [52677]

Mr Paterson: The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) came into being on 4 November 2001, by virtue of section 1 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. At that time there was a total of 9,446 police officers, including reserve officers. Of that total 756 were Catholic, 8,305 were Protestant and 385 were of undetermined community background.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Working Hours

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions Ministers in his Department have had in the Council of Ministers on *(a)* the European Aviation Safety Agency and *(b)* Flight Time Limitations. [53604]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd) of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W.

Railways: Electrification

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that Network Rail take steps to reduce delays and cancellations caused by the freezing of the third electrified rail on South East franchise rail lines. [46980]

Mrs Villiers: The "third-rail" electrified network has suffered disruption during the last three winters because of the formation of ice on electrical conductor rails. As a result, during 2010 Network Rail installed experimental heating elements at selected sites to keep the conductor rail free of ice when such conditions arise.

It is understood that very good test results were achieved during the severe weather in December 2010, and Network Rail is now proposing to install the system at an additional 160 sites.

I have discussed this potential solution with senior representatives of Network Rail and the Office of Rail Regulation, and will continue to monitor the progress of this and other actions to improve rail service resilience in the future.

The Quarmby review of the resilience of England's transport systems in winter recommended that conversion of the top contact/third rail system to a less vulnerable method of traction current supply should be considered and evaluated.

The Secretary of State asked the rail industry to formulate proposals in response to the recommendations in the report, including third-rail alternatives, to help the rail system to improve its resilience in winter weather.

In addition the Rail Safety and Standards Board has initiated a research study into the economics of converting to alternatives to the third rail DC system. The outputs of this research work will help inform future investment decisions in relation to the electrified rail network.

JUSTICE

Crime

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders, *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts, *(c)* warnings, *(d)* individual support plans, *(e)* action plan orders, *(f)* child safety orders, *(g)* referral orders, *(h)* parenting orders, *(i)* parenting contracts, *(j)* local child curfew schemes, *(k)* dispersal powers, *(l)* fixed penalty notices for disorderly behaviour, *(m)* detention and training orders, *(n)* seizure of vehicles used antisocially, *(o)* closure of licensed premises, *(p)* confiscation of alcohol from young people and *(q)* designated public places orders have been used in each (i) local authority and (ii) basic command unit of each police authority area in each region of England and Wales in each year since 2007. [53376]

Mr Blunt: The available information required to answer this question is currently being collated. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions have been brought and *(b)* fixed penalty notices have been issued by (i) police and (ii) local authorities for (A) fly-tipping, (B) graffiti, (C) dog fouling, (D) the dropping of litter and (E) parking offences in each year since 2008. [53398]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 558W, for the requested information on the number of prosecutions.

Regarding the information requested on fixed penalty notices, please note that a penalty notice for disorder (PND) may be issued for offences of criminal damage (which includes graffiti) and littering. See Table 1 for the number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a PND for these offences in England and Wales for 2008 and 2009.

PND data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published data on fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for offences listed in parts (B) to (D) of the question. FPNs cannot be issued for fly-tipping. Police community support officers can issue FPNs on behalf of the local authority and these are included in the aggregated figure provided by each local authority to DEFRA. The available information on the number of FPNs issued, by offence type, in England for 2007-08 and 2008-09 can be viewed in Table 2. DEFRA advise that this data collection is now discontinued.

The Home Office advises that information for parking offences in 2008 and 2009 is published in chapter 3 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures 2009/10", a copy of which can be found in the Library of the House. Fixed penalty notice data for 2010 are due to be published in 2011.

Table 1: Number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder for criminal damage and depositing and leaving litter offences, England and Wales, 2008 and 2009[1]

	2008	*2009*
Criminal damage (under £500)	13,427	10,145
Depositing and leaving litter	1,202	1,148

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of fixed penalty notices issued in England, 2007-08 and 2008-09

(B) Graffiti

Reporting year (April to March)	*Number*
2008-09	119
2007-08	138

(C) Dog fouling

Reporting year (April to March)	*Number*
2008-09	2,071
2007-08	2,079

(D) Litter

Reporting year (April to March)	*Number*
2008-09	35,465
2007-08	33,693

Source:
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for driving a car while uninsured in each police authority area in the East of England in each year since 2006. [53381]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the East of England region for driving without insurance, by police force area, for the year 2006-09 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates court for driving without insurance, in the East of England region by police force area, 2006-09[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*			
Road Traffic Act 1988 S.143(2)	*Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Police force area within East of England					
Bedfordshire		2,702	2,436	2,572	2,683
Cambridgeshire		2,826	1,972	1,435	1,516
Essex		4,511	4,865	4,176	4,372
Hertfordshire		6,023	4,523	3,491	3,056
Norfolk		2,690	2,509	2,440	1,540
Suffolk		2,250	1,768	1,645	1,868
Total		21,002	18,073	15,759	15,035

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers have been prosecuted for *(a)* offences under sections (i) 3 and (ii) 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and *(b)* failing to stop after an accident under the provisions of that Act in Suffolk in each year since 2009. [53443]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1211-12W.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Human Trafficking: Sentencing

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to increase the length of sentences for traffickers in forced labour cases for the purposes of ensuring that sentences passed *(a)* reflect the seriousness of the crime committed and *(b)* are significant enough to act as an effective deterrent. [53330]

Mr Blunt: The offences of trafficking people for exploitation, trafficking people for prostitution and trafficking people for sexual exploitation all carry a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment, which reflects the seriousness of these crimes. Within the maximum penalty, sentencing is entirely a matter for the courts, taking account of all the circumstances of each case and any relevant sentencing guidelines and case law.

Offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders on *(a)* probation and *(b)* licence have travelled abroad unsupervised in each of the last three years. [53006]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of offenders who have been given permission to travel abroad while on licence is not held centrally. To provide such information would incur disproportionate cost.

Police: Prison Accommodation

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are being held in police cells; at what cost; and how many have been so held in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 2009. [53405]

Mr Blunt: Police cells, under Operation Safeguard, have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells under Operation Safeguard have been on stand by since the end of October 2008.

In addition to Operation Safeguard arrangements, prisoners may be held overnight in police cells as a "lockout". Lockouts can arise from a number of factors, including late court sittings, which can compromise the contractors' ability to deliver the prisoner to prison prior to the reception closure time. Under an agreement between NOMS and ACPO, NOMS are charged a flat rate fee of £55.00 per prisoner per night for the use of police cells in these circumstances.

On 26 April 2010, *Official Report*, column168W, I provided my hon. Friend with the total number of prisoners held overnight in a police cell as a lockout in 2010.

The following table shows the number of lockouts in 2009, 2010 (information provided previously) and 2011 (up to 31 March).

Number of lockouts in 2009, 2010 and 2011[1] by police force area

Police force	*2009*	*2010*	*2011[1]*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	12	4	4
BTP	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	9	4	0
Dorset	0	3	0
Durham	0	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0
Essex	8	9	1
Gloucestershire	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	1	0
Gwent	0	1	0
Hampshire	6	8	3
Hertfordshire	11	10	3
Humberside	0	3	1
Kent	4	19	1
Lancashire	2	0	0
Leicestershire	20	11	2
Lincolnshire	1	2	0
Merseyside	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police	67	101	31
Middlesex	0	0	0
Norfolk	3	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	1	0
North Wales	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	3	1	0
Northumbria	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	2	0	1
South Yorkshire	0	1	0
South Wales	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	7	0
Surrey	6	2	0
Sussex	3	19	0
Thames Valley	18	10	0
West Mercia	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	2	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0
Total	175	220	47

[1] Up to 31 March

Prison Service: Violence

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Prison Service's policy on zero tolerance on violence; [52778]

(2) what checks are in place to ensure the accuracy of reporting of assaults on Prison Service staff. [52672]

Mr Blunt: NOMS is folly committed to zero tolerance to violence in prisons. No act of violence is acceptable, be it verbal, physical or directed at property. Zero tolerance is a proactive approach to reducing violence in all its forms, in our prisons, and is subject to ongoing and robust monitoring.

The Incident Reporting System (IRS, now integrated on to the NOMIS system) is used to record events that undermine the safety of those within an establishment. Assaults are one category of IRS data. The data-entry process is largely reliant on each establishment accurately recording incidents as they occur.

Every assault incident entered onto NOMIS is subject to a central check to ensure that the incident has been reported correctly on the reporting system. If the incident has been reported incorrectly then the establishment is contacted and asked to rectify the error. Once the incident has been entered correctly it is locked and the establishment is no longer able to modify the incident report without contacting NOMS HQ. At regular intervals NOMS HQ will follow up any outstanding incidents with establishments to ensure they are captured accurately and in full.

NOMS uses NOMIS data to undertake quarterly monitoring on levels of violence, referrals to the police and the number of successful prosecutions.

NOMS is committed to open reporting and since 2009 data on violence in prisons has been published in the Ministry of Justice Safety in Custody statistics.

Prisons: Private Sector

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost per prisoner place in each private sector prison *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding any capital repayment element in each of the last five years. [53338]

Mr Blunt: The following two tables show the cost per place and per prisoner for the four years 2006-07 to 2009-10. Figures for 2010-11 are not yet available.

For each year the direct cost is shown. Additionally, for 2007-08 to 2009-10 an overall cost is also shown (this information was not collected prior to 2007-08). The direct cost reflects mainly the direct contract costs for each private prison. The overall cost also includes costs met centrally by NOMS, including rates, depreciation, cost of capital, major maintenance, prisoner transport, etc. This includes some estimation.

The capital repayment element is not normally included in the cost per place/prisoner as it is not part of the annual resource operating cost. In table 2 it has been added to the direct cost only, as the overall cost figures in Table 1 already include depreciation and cost of capital charges.

Doncaster and Wolds are privately managed prisons, while the remainder are run under private finance initiative contract arrangements. Due to changes in accounting treatment over the period covered, the figures are not necessarily directly comparable.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the baseline certified normal accommodation number of places, which will generally give a higher unit cost than the cost per prisoner.

Table 1

2009-10

	Direct resource expenditure (£)		*Overall expenditure (£)*	
exc. Capital repayment	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Altcourse	58,486	35,883	61,926	37,993
Ashfield	56,858	81,292	57,273	81,885
Bronzefield	51,817	54,865	56,126	59,428
Doncaster	30,475	21,018	43,937	30,302
Dovegate	34,844	32,995	37,039	35,074
Forest Bank	36,051	26,300	40,173	29,307
Lowdham Grange	31,114	29,215	34,191	32,105
Pare	54,169	38,660	56,974	40,662
Peterborough	37,253	32,937	41,462	36,658
Rye Hill	30,775	28,284	33,632	30,910
Wolds	29,195	24,197	40,737	33,765
Total	40,840	33,354	45,409	37,086

2008-09

	Direct resource expenditure (£)		*Overall expenditure (£)*	
exc. Capital repayment	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Altcourse	58,885	36,982	62,701	39,379
Ashfield	56,672	63,424	59,033	66,067
Bronzefield	57,817	59,537	60,348	62,143
Doncaster	37,820	26,205	44,026	30,504
Dovegate	34,829	33,220	37,305	35,581
Forest Bank	35,652	25,576	38,845	27,867
Lowdham Grange	32,207	30,153	34,699	32,486
Pare	53,615	37,698	57,033	40,101
Peterborough	38,584	33,563	41,303	35,928
Rye Hill	31,095	28,880	33,594	31,202
Wolds	37,228	31,302	42,720	35,920
Total	42,686	34,437	46,054	37,153

2007-08

	Direct resource expenditure (£)		*Overall expenditure (£)*	
exc. Capital repayment	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Altcourse	58,464	34,740	62,213	36,968
Ashfield	54,950	58,089	58,473	61,814
Bronzefield	53,824	54,922	57,275	58,444
Doncaster	36,055	24,513	46,437	31,572
Dovegate	32,668	31,039	34,763	33,029
Forest Bank	32,955	24,121	35,068	25,667
Lowdham Grange	30,498	29,440	32,454	31,328
Pare	50,330	37,324	53,557	39,718
Peterborough	36,138	31,786	38,455	33,824
Rye Hill	29,532	28,859	31,426	30,709
Wolds	33,986	29,236	44,236	38,053
Total	40301	32,760	44,111	35,856

2006-07

	Direct resource expenditure (£)		*Overall expenditure (£)*	
exc. Capital repayment	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Altcourse	55,108	32,947	n/a	n/a
Ashfield	49,960	54,304	n/a	n/a
Bronzefield	47,045	50,285	n/a	n/a
Doncaster	27,828	19,312	n/a	n/a

	2006-07			
	Direct resource expenditure (£)		*Overall expenditure (£)*	
exc. Capital repayment	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Dovegate	29,048	28,619	n/a	n/a
Forest Bank	29,097	22,212	n/a	n/a
Lowdham Grange	27,264	25,447	n/a	n/a
Pare	44,080	34,914	n/a	n/a
Peterborough	31,319	30,626	n/a	n/a
Rye Hill	24,577	24,455	n/a	n/a
Wolds	25,221	21,638	n/a	n/a
Total	34,996	29,534	n/a	n/a

Table 2

	2009-10	
Inc. Capital repayment (direct resource expenditure)	*Cost per place (£)*	*Cost per prisoner (£)*
Altcourse	61,254	37,581
Ashfield	60,839	86,985
Bronzefield	54,438	57,641
Doncaster	30,475	21,018
Dovegate	38,577	36,531
Forest Bank	37,557	27,399
Lowdham Grange	33,323	31,289
Pare	58,687	41,885
Peterborough	39,049	34,525
Rye Hill	32,401	29,779
Wolds	29,195	24,197
Total	43,181	35,266

	2008-09	
Inc. Capital repayment (direct resource expenditure)	*Cost per place (£)*	*Cost per prisoner (£)*
Altcourse	61,440	38,587
Ashfield	60,357	67,549
Bronzefield	60,426	62,214
Doncaster	37,820	26,205
Dovegate	38,860	37,065
Forest Bank	37,191	26,680
Lowdham Grange	34,280	32,094
Pare	57,780	40,626
Peterborough	40,281	35,039
Rye Hill	32,605	30,283
Wolds	37,228	31,302
Total	44,933	36,249

	2007-08	
Inc. Capital repayment (direct resource expenditure)	*Cost per place (£)*	*Cost per prisoner (£)*
Altcourse	61,068	36,287
Ashfield	58,361	61,696
Bronzefield	56,306	57,455
Doncaster	36,055	24,513
Dovegate	36,407	34,591
Forest Bank	34,391	25,172
Lowdham Grange	32,414	31,290
Pare	54,169	40,171
Peterborough	37,740	33,195
Rye Hill	30,935	30,229
Wolds	33,986	29,236
Total	42,409	34,474

	2006-07	
Inc. Capital repayment (direct resource expenditure)	*Cost per place (£)*	*Cost per prisoner (£)*
Altcourse	57,923	34,629
Ashfield	53,174	57,797
Bronzefield	49,406	52,809
Doncaster	27,828	19,312
Dovegate	32,516	32,036
Forest Bank	30,437	23,234
Lowdham Grange	29,513	27,545
Pare	47,618	37,717
Peterborough	32,833	32,106
Rye Hill	25,879	25,750
Wolds	25,221	21,638
Total	37,025	31,246

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much disinvestment he expects will be required from each private sector prison in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [53336]

Mr Blunt: The level or nature of disinvestment has not yet been agreed. We are in negotiations with the main providers of contracts to central Government and decisions regarding the disinvestment in private sector prisons are dependent on the outcome of these discussions.

Prisons: Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what level of efficiency savings he expects each of the public sector prisons to achieve in each of the next five years. [53335]

Mr Blunt: I assume the right hon. Member wants the percentage level of efficiency savings predictions for the next five years. There are currently targeted plans that span the spending review period through to 2014-15. As part of the plans to deliver the savings required in the current spending review, public sector prisons will be required to deliver real terms efficiency savings of 10% by 2014-15. The intention is not to realise the 10% savings equally across all of the public sector prisons, but to ensure that local factors are taken into account in efficiency plans.

Prisons: Visits

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people visiting prisons were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in each year since 2007-08; how many such people were referred to the police; and what steps were taken in respect of those not referred to the police in each such case. [53378]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of visitors to prisons in England and Wales found in possession of illegal drugs is not recorded centrally. Information on the actions taken in respect of visitors not referred to police is now held at local level. To provide the information would require a detailed investigation into all local records and incur disproportionate cost. It is NOMS policy to refer all visitors found to be in possession of drugs, to the police.

The following table shows a breakdown by year of visitors arrested or apprehended who have been suspected of smuggling drugs into prisons in England and Wales.

	Total
2007-08	432
2008-09	472
2009-10	354
2010-11	282

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

These figures may change should any further incidents relating to this period be identified and reported to NOMS.

Privacy

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on super-injunctions issued in relation to the right to privacy; and if he will make a statement. [53661]

Mr Djanogly: We are currently examining the issue of how reliable data on the number of injunctions issued by the courts might be collated in the future.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to amend the law on privacy. [53662]

Mr Djanogly: The Government recognise the importance of finding the correct balance between individual rights to privacy on one hand with rights to freedom of expression and transparency of official information on the other. Our proposed reforms of the law of defamation are one aspect of this balancing process. Another is the Master of the Rolls' Committee to examine the use of super-injunctions and other issues relating to injunctions which bind the press. The Government will await the report from the Master of the Rolls Committee before deciding on next steps.

Secure Accommodation: Young Offenders

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library copies of the most recent reports by Youth Justice Board performance monitors on the secure estate. [53257]

Mr Blunt: Reports prepared by Youth Justice Board (YJB) performance monitors on the secure estate are used for internal management by the YJB. They allow the YJB to consider commissioning and performance options, and factors relating to the placement of young people. Reports contain personal, sensitive and commercial information that if published would compromise function, relationships and prejudice contracts. HM Inspectorate of Prisons and Ofsted undertake formal inspections of the youth secure estate and their reports are published and can be accessed through the inspectorate websites.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse arising from the closure of facilities in the youth justice secure estate in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [52745]

Mr Blunt: The estimated savings generated by the Youth Justice Board through its decommissioning of parts of the youth secure estate in 2011-12 are £17.6 million.

The decommissioning programme began in 2009 and generated savings of £6.25 million in 2009-10 and £21.949 million in 2010-11.

Savings across the remainder of the spending review period are yet to be finalised and will depend on the demand for youth secure places in the period.

Sentencing: Females

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women who formerly served in the armed forces are serving a custodial sentence in prisons in England and Wales; and how many such prisoners have children who are in the care of a local authority or kinship placement. [53325]

Mr Blunt: In September 2010, the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Defence published the results of a joint study to estimate how many prisoners in England and Wales had been in the regular armed forces. This showed that 3.5% of prisoners had previously served in the regular armed forces, of which 0.4% were female. This report may be found in the House of Commons Library and at the following web link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=66&pubType=3

Data on prisoners with children who are in the care of a local authority or kinship placement are not held centrally, and to collect them would incur disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17-year-olds were given custodial sentences in each police force area since 2009; and what the average length was of such sentences. [53373]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 474W.

Please note that court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 309W, on the BBC, what progress has been made on proposals to make the BBC more accountable to Parliament; what discussions he has had with the BBC on this issue since October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [53013]

Mr Vaizey: My officials are working with the BBC Trust on the detail of the new arrangements. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the right hon. Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt) discussed the matter in a phone call with the chairman of the BBC Trust on 24 March.

Another new measure to increase the BBC's accountability to Parliament has been the recent introduction by the Government of pre-appointment scrutiny for the post of BBC Trust chairman by the Culture, Media and Sport Committee. This offers Parliament the opportunity to assess a preferred candidate's suitability for the role and their key priorities in advance of appointment. The committee held a pre-appointment hearing with Lord Patten on 10 March.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to facilitate competition in the deployment of superfast broadband. [53067]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The Government's broadband strategy, "Britain's Superfast Broadband Future" published in December 2010 includes a number of policy and regulatory interventions aimed at supporting and stimulating investment in superfast broadband networks—including encouraging sharing of infrastructure, allowing new deployment of overhead communications cables and encouraging other methods of reducing civil engineering costs such as micro-trenching. The Government are also investing £530 million up to 2015 to support broadband rollout in areas the market will not reach in a reasonable time. Those projects will be subject to open competitive tender procedures consistent with European procurement guidelines. The networks they support will have to be made available on an open access basis.

Copyright: Internet

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when Ofcom expects to publish the Initial Obligations Code. [53297]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Office of Communications (Ofcom) have produced a draft Initial Obligations Code which we are considering closely within Government. However, the code must reflect and contain the provisions of the cost-sharing statutory instrument, which will itself have to be withdrawn and amended to reflect the judgment in the judicial review of the online infringement of copyright provisions. This will inevitably lead to a delay in the code's publication, but I would hope that we can make clear the Government's proposed changes shortly, together with the overall implementation timetable.

Departmental Work Experience

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53207]

John Penrose: The Department has not offered internships to students in the UK or from the Bassetlaw constituency since 8 May 2010.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what remuneration his Department offers interns. [53296]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department would pay the equivalent of a grade C (EO) salary—£23,197.

Digital Economy Act 2010

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish a timetable for the implementation of the Digital Economy Act 2010. [53293]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The implementation of the online infringement of copyright initial obligations has been affected by a number of factors. We now have the judgment from the judicial review, and are currently considering the changes which will need to be made to the cost-sharing statutory instrument in light of this. This will inevitably impact on the timetable for implementing the notification provisions of the Digital Economy Act. The report by Ofcom into the workability of sections 17 and 18 of the Act is due shortly. I will set out what action we plan to take as soon as we have had an opportunity to consider the report and all other relevant factors.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when the review of Section 17 of the Digital Economy Act 2010 will report. [53294]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We expect the report from Ofcom into the technical workability of the reserve site blocking provisions by the middle of May this year.

English Heritage

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether English Heritage plans to tender for the digitisation of aerial surveys undertaken in the 1940s. [52744]

John Penrose: English Heritage (EH) has no plans to tender for the digitisation of the 1940s post-war aerial photographic surveys at present. The photography is fully catalogued and access to the images is provided for a wide range of private and commercial users through the EH national collection of archives in Swindon.

House of European History

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to loan any exhibits to the House of European History project. [53008]

Mr Vaizey: This Department is not aware of any requests to our sponsored museums to loan exhibits to the House of European History project. Any such requests would be made to the museums directly.

Internet: Children

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to assist children to use the Internet safely. [52843]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The protection of children from illegal and harmful content when online is an absolute priority for this Government. The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) brings together over 170 organisations including Government Departments such as the Department for Education, the Home Office, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, children's charities, law enforcement and academia. UKCCIS members are committed to working together to help keep children and young people safe online.

The UK has a very successful model of industry-led self-regulation. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) works closely with internet service providers to ensure that webpages which provide access to images of child abuse, including those hosted outside of the UK, are reported and removed or blocked at source. Government are also working closely with industry as part of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety to improve many aspects of children's digital safety.

In addition, I hosted a discussion in February with internet service providers, UKCCIS, the IWF and other interested groups to look at how parental controls can be further improved. A further discussion has been arranged to look at progress on this issue in May this year.

Local Press: Competition

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the level of competitiveness in the local newspaper supply chains in England. [53680]

Mr Vaizey: We have made no recent assessment of the level of competitiveness in local newspaper supply chains in England.

National Lottery: Retail Trade

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will direct *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Lottery Commission to undertake an investigation into the rules governing (i) the siting of lottery terminals and (ii) the allocation of such terminals to supermarkets. [53114]

John Penrose: The selection of national lottery retailers is, rightly, a commercial matter for Camelot, as it is incentivised to place the terminals where they will generate the most sales and therefore revenue for good causes.

Camelot is required, through its licence to operate the national lottery, to apply clear and reasonable criteria when selecting retailers. The National Lottery Commission is assured that the criteria in place are reasonable and that Camelot has been applying those criteria in making decisions.

Olympic Games 2012

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to publish details of compensation available for businesses affected by the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. [53323]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), who has the responsibility for implementing the advertising and trading regulations at Games time, has a statutory requirement to publish a Detailed Notice giving advice to those directly involved six months before the advertising and trading regulations come into effect. The notice is expected to be published in late 2011/early 2012 and will cover financial assistance arrangements.

Olympic Games 2012: Small Businesses

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has considered the merits of funding a programme of advice and support for small businesses in the regulated zones surrounding the Olympic Park. [52668]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), who has the responsibility for implementing the advertising and trading regulations at games time, has a small budget to provide advice and assistance to those affected by the regulations. The ODA has a statutory requirement to publish a detailed notice giving advice to those directly involved six months before the regulations come into effect. The notice is expected to be published in late 2011/early 2012.

Rugby: World Cup

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on funding for the 2013 Rugby League World Cup; and if he will make a statement. [53736]

Hugh Robertson: I met with the executive chairman and chief executive of the Rugby Football League on 7 April to discuss the 2013 World cup. I am keeping the funding situation under review pending the decision by the North West Development Agency which is due by the end of May.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that the North West benefits from the 2013 Rugby League World Cup. [53737]

Hugh Robertson: I have written to the chair of the Regional Development Agency, Robert Hough, making clear the Government's interest in 2013.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on Warrington's bid to host matches for the 2013 Rugby League World Cup; and if he will make a statement. [53738]

Hugh Robertson: The selection of venues for the 2013 Rugby League World Cup is a matter for the Rugby Football League. I have not discussed any of the bids to host matches.

UK Film Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of launching a review of film policy following the abolition of the UK Film Council. [53271]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We have assessed the merits and believe this will be a useful exercise.

White List

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) for how long he expects the White List to remain suspended; [53172]

(2) what plans he to introduce a replacement for the White List; [53173]

(3) whether his Department plans to compensate countries wishing to join the White List in respect of revenue foregone due to the suspension of the White List. [53174]

John Penrose: The previous Government decided it was not appropriate to consider any new applications for the White List while the future of remote gambling regulation is under consideration, and we agree. I hope to announce the Government's preferred solution in due course. There are no plans to compensate jurisdictions who might wish to join the White List, and it would be hard to justify why British taxpayers should be asked to make such payments.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal advice she has received on the effect on local authority licensing arrangements of the introduction of a *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* mandatory minimum price per unit of alcohol. [51770]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State has received legal advice on a range of issues pertaining to alcohol pricing, including the effect of a minimum price per unit of alcohol on local authority licensing arrangements. The content of legal advice is subject to legal professional privilege and it is not appropriate to set it out at this stage other than in terms of the areas to which it relates.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were for being drunk and disorderly of defendants aged 10 to 17 years in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in England in each year since 2006. [53372]

James Brokenshire: The number of persons aged 10 to 17 proceeded against for being drunk and disorderly, by police force area, England and Wales 2006-09 (latest available) is shown in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of persons aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for being 'drunk and disorderly'[1], by police force area, England and Wales 2006-09[2, 3, 4]

Police force area	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	25	34	16	21
Bedfordshire	7	10	7	5
Cambridgeshire	13	11	2	8
Cheshire	14	30	42	28
Cleveland	18	25	38	33
Cumbria	48	56	72	47
Derbyshire	18	20	41	17
Devon and Cornwall	82	107	81	70
Dorset	10	23	9	22
Durham	52	83	82	47
Essex	11	11	15	26
Gloucestershire	5	4	11	2
Greater Manchester	21	31	63	59
Hampshire	33	32	42	41
Hertfordshire	10	4	3	5
Humberside	19	14	11	28
Kent	69	76	56	34
Lancashire	92	120	171	173
Leicestershire	—	3	4	5
Lincolnshire	2	4	3	5
Merseyside	77	107	118	95
Metropolitan Police[5]	34	44	31	35
Norfolk	3	11	19	20
North Yorkshire	27	27	35	29
Northamptonshire	4	4	8	6
Northumbria	441	547	508	[illegible]
Nottinghamshire	18	13	16	[illegible]
South Yorkshire	64	53	90	67
Staffordshire	12	20	24	29
Suffolk	8	4	4	2
Surrey	13	6	7	3
Sussex	37	45	53	53
Thames Valley	36	21	17	18
Warwickshire	7	11	7	4
West Mercia	51	50	47	42
West Midlands	42	80	64	42
West Yorkshire	128	164	146	139
Wiltshire	14	4	6	7
Dyfed-Powys	22	16	12	9
Gwent	35	46	33	25
North Wales	24	25	29	13
South Wales	39	24	14	14
England and Wales	1,685	2,020	2,057	1,833

[1] Includes:
Being guilty in any public place, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[5] Includes City of London.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services In She Ministry of Justice

Animal Experiments

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the establishment of limits on the pain which laboratory animals are permitted to experience for experimental purposes in laboratories. [51711]

Lynne Featherstone: The criteria used to assign severity limits to regulated procedures are set out in paragraphs 5.40 to 5.42 of the Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321). Copies of the Guidance have been placed in the House Library.

Asylum

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long, on average, the UK Border Agency took to process an asylum application in the latest period for which figures are available. [53624]

Damian Green: In the most recent 12 months for which data are available, the average length of time to process an asylum application to full determination was 263 calendar days.

In answering this question we have assumed the date of final determination to be the date an application was either Granted or became Appeal Rights Exhausted (ARE).

For those cases which had no recourse to appeal, chose not to exercise appeal rights or appealed too late, we have taken final determination to be the date of initial decision.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Asylum: North Africa

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications were received from residents of *(a)* Mauritania, *(b)* Morocco, *(c)* Algeria, *(d)* Tunisia, *(e)* Libya and *(f)* Egypt in each month of 2010-11. [53668]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of asylum applications received in the UK, excluding dependants, for nationals of *(a)* Mauritania, *(b)* Morocco, *(c)* Algeria, *(d)* Tunisia, *(e)* Libya and *(f)* Egypt in each month of 2010-11. Information on residents of the above countries is not available.

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, January 2010 to February 2011, nationals of Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt

	Country of nationality					
	Mauritania	*Morocco*	*Algeria*	*Tunisia*	*Libya*	*Egypt*
2010						
January	—	—	30	—	10	5
February	—	5	20	•	10	5
March	•	•	25	5	5	5
April	—	•	25	•	5	5
May	—	5	20	•	5	10
June	—	5	30	—	5	5
July	•	5	20	5	5	10
August	•	5	15	•	10	10
September	—	5	15	•	10	5
October	—	5	25	5	10	5
November	•	5	20	•	10	5
December	—	5	30	•	10	10
Total 2010	5	40	270	20	90	90
2011						
January	•	10	30	5	10	10
February	—	5	20	•	20	10
Total January to February 2011	•	15	50	5	30	20

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 ("—" = 0, "•" = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

Further information on asylum applications are published monthly, quarterly and annually in the Control of Immigration bulletins and Monthly Asylum Applications Tables available from the Home Office's science, research and statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics

The Control of Immigration bulletins are also available from the Library of the House.

COE Commissioner for Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) with reference to the issue of the paper on Criminalisation of migration in Europe: human rights implications issued by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, CommDH/Issue Paper (2010)1, whether *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the EU is considering any changes to immigration-related policies as a consequence of the issue paper and its recommendations; [52198]

(2) whether her Department has responded to the issue paper on Criminalisation of migration in Europe: human rights implications issued by the Commissioner of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, CommDH/Issue Paper (2010)1; and what assessment she has made of each conclusion and recommendation. [52499]

Damian Green: The Issue Paper mentioned was commissioned and published by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, following a seminar organised by the Commissioner's Office in Paris on 24-25 September 2009. The paper was issued "for the purpose of contributing to debate or further reflection" and does not necessarily reflect the position of the Commissioner.

The Government are not considering any changes to immigration policies as a consequence of the paper and are not aware of any discussion or consideration of policy changes in the EU based on the paper. There is no obligation on Member Governments of the Council of Europe to take any follow up action on such papers and accordingly the Government have not responded to the paper, nor carried out a detailed assessment of its recommendations. The Government will continue to take firm action against illegal immigration whilst ensuring full respect of the human rights of individual migrants and of international obligations regarding the protection of genuine refugees.

Convictions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a person with an unspent conviction who is thereby prohibited from making an application for funds under the domestic violence rule is eligible for support from *(a)* the Sojourner Project and *(b)* any other funding from the public purse; and if she will make a statement. [53018]

Damian Green: A person with an unspent conviction is not prevented from applying for *(a)* support from the Sojourner Project, *(b)* settlement under paragraph 289A of the Immigration Rules or (c) a waiver of the fee for such an application on the basis of destitution.

Crime

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* prosecutions for (i) being drunk and disorderly, (ii) being found drunk on a highway, public place or on licensed premises and (iii) being drunk in or when entering a designated sports event there have been in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 2007. [53404]

James Brokenshire: The number of defendants proceeded against for being 'drunk and disorderly' (which includes 'Being guilty in any public place, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour' and 'being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises'), and being drunk when entering a designated sports event by police force area, England and Wales 2007-09 (latest available) is shown in the following tables.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. It is not possible to identify the number of arrests made for alcohol related acts of disorder or violence from the data on arrests reported to the Home Office.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for being 'drunk and disorderly' and being drunk at a designated sports event, by police force area England and Wales 2007-09[1,2,3]

	2007				2008			
		of which:				of which:		
Police force area	*Drunk and disorderly*	*Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises*	*Being guilty in any public place, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour*	*Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event*	*Drunk and disorderly*	*Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises*	*Being guilty in any public place, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour*	*Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event*
Avon and Somerset	347	103	244	5	260	66	194	1
Bedfordshire	121	14	107	5	65	6	59	6
Cambridgeshire	128	33	95	2	170	57	113	1
Cheshire	225	10	275	2	366	2	364	—
City of London	59	1	58	—	41	—	41	—
Cleveland	140	2	138	12	328	—	328	13
Cumbria	420	17	403	—	448	28	420	—
Derbyshire	257	4	253	5	289	4	285	6
Devon and Cornwall	763	160	603	5	962	196	766	4
Dorset	138	1	137	5	171	6	165	3
Durham	243	3	240	1	250	6	244	—
Essex	207	4	203	11	194	6	188	7

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for being 'drunk and disorderly' and being drunk at a designated sports event, by police force area England and Wales 2007-09[1,2,3]

	2007				2008			
		of which:				*of which:*		
Police force area	*Drunk and disorderly*	*Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises*	*Being guilty in any public place, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour*	*Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event*	*Drunk and disorderly*	*Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises*	*Being guilty in any public place, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour*	*Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event*
Gloucestershire	48	3	45	6	78	4	74	—
Greater Manchester	300	7	293	13	663	—	663	6
Hampshire	267	18	269	12	497	32	465	14
Hertfordshire	64	—	64	1	90	4	86	1
Humberside	73	1	72	1	78	1	77	4
Kent	464	45	419	—	449	44	405	—
Lancashire	755	8	747	19	1,120	14	1,106	17
Leicestershire	41	—	41	2	49	—	49	3
Lincolnshire	76	3	73	—	107	4	103	1
Merseyside	1,203	5	1,198	5	1,703	7	1,696	13
Metropolitan Police	1,121	70	1,051	20	1,050	34	1,016	15
Norfolk	136	5	131	12	242	13	229	2
North Yorkshire	309	87	222	—	400	65	335	1
Northamptonshire	23	3	20	—	69	3	66	—
Northumbria	4,310	29	4,289	17	3,543	43	3,500	29
Nottinghamshire	262	3	259	14	255	1	254	18
South Yorkshire	618	6	612	62	850	19	831	33
Staffordshire	201	46	155	6	296	77	219	6
Suffolk	110	21	89	8	34	8	26	14
Surrey	191	100	91	—	217	80	137	—
Sussex	523	92	431	—	536	86	450	—
Thames Valley	261	28	233	1	230	29	201	—
Warwickshire	56	—	56	—	85	—	85	—
West Mercia	455	6	449	3	396	5	391	—
West Midlands	1,264	44	1,220	81	1,328	22	1,306	32
West Yorkshire	1,669	36	1,633	49	1,566	38	1,530	39
Wiltshire	107	33	74	—	102	27	75	1
Dyfed-Powys	219	46	173	—	176	22	154	—
Gwent	371	2	369	—	328	4	324	—
North Wales	241	3	238	—	245	3	242	3
South Wales	223	24	199	3	195	10	185	—
England and Wales	19,037	1,126	17,911	388	20,523	1,076	19,447	293

	2009			
		of which:		
Police force area	*Drunk and disorderly*	*Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises*	*Being guilty in any public place, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour*	*Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event*
Avon and Somerset	253	49	204	4
Bedfordshire	48	6	42	2
Cambridgeshire	171	54	117	4
Cheshire	466	5	461	—
City of London	53	1	52	—
Cleveland	354	—	354	15
Cumbria	385	25	360	—
Derbyshire	244	3	241	1
Devon and Cornwall	928	166	762	6

	2009			
		of which:		
Police force area	*Drunk and disorderly*	*Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises*	*Being guilty in any public place, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour*	*Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event*
Dorset	262	10	252	3
Durham	123	4	119	—
Essex	326	9	317	1
Gloucestershire	59	1	58	—
Greater Manchester	788	2	786	7
Hampshire	559	43	516	3
Hertfordshire	91	2	89	2
Humberside	177	5	172	6
Kent	378	23	355	1
Lancashire	1,386	5	1,381	20
Leicestershire	67	—	67	—
Lincolnshire	137	—	137	—
Merseyside	2,090	8	2,082	10
Metropolitan Police	1,313	32	1,281	6
Norfolk	244	1	243	—
North Yorkshire	389	49	340	—
Northamptonshire	64	2	62	5
Northumbria	3,395	38	3,357	28
Nottinghamshire	322	2	320	10
South Yorkshire	976	2	974	17
Staffordshire	359	90	269	—
Suffolk	28	3	25	7
Surrey	154	31	123	—
Sussex	529	93	436	—
Thames Valley	292	35	257	—
Warwickshire	99	1	96	—
West Mercia	427	5	422	1
West Midlands	1,224	6	1,218	46
West Yorkshire	1,437	27	1,410	42
Wiltshire	110	5	105	3
Dyfed-Powys	146	29	117	1
Gwent	266	—	266	—
North Wales	155	7	146	—
South Wales	206	12	194	1
England and Wales	21,480	891	20,589	252

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Crime Prevention: Young People

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated to Positive Futures in each year since 2008-09; and how much funding she has allocated to that programme in each year for the comprehensive spending review period. [52735]

James Brokenshire: Total Home Office allocations for the Positive Futures programme is as follows:

	£
2008-09	5,988,469
2009-10	5,999,000
2010-11	5,999,000
2011-12	5,707,000

These figures include funding for the management and monitoring and analysis services. Funding for frontline projects of £5.03 million has remained flat since 2008-09. The total budget allocation for 2012-13 has yet to be determined although the intention to provide £5 million funding for frontline projects has been announced.

Crimes of Violence

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what proportion of incidents of violence against the person resulted in *(a)* no injuries, *(b)* a minor bruise or black eye, *(c)* severe bruising, *(d)* scratches, *(e)* cuts, *(f)* broken bones, *(g)* a broken nose, *(h)* broken or lost teeth, *(i)* concussion and *(j)* facial or head injuries in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [53438]

(2) how many and what proportion of incidents of violence against the person involved *(a)* a knife, *(b)* a hitting implement, *(c)* a glass or bottle, *(d)* a stabbing implement, *(e)* a firearm, *(f)* a stone or stones, *(g)* a syringe and *(h)* another implement in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 2008; [53444]

(3) how many and what proportion of offenders involved in violent incidents were recorded as having been under the influence of *(a)* drugs and *(b)* drink in each police force area in each year since 1997. [53484]

James Brokenshire: There are two main sources of official statistics on crime in England and Wales; the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime. The information requested is not available by police force area from the BCS; and police recorded crime data, which are available at police force area level, do not generally provide the level of detailed information requested.

Estimates for England and Wales of the number and/or proportion of violent incidents from the BCS since 1997 for *(a)* injury sustained, *(b)* weapon used and *(c)* where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs appear in the annual statistical bulletin 'Crime in England and Wales 2009/10' (Tables 3.02, 3.09 and 3.20), a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Figures for the number of offences recorded by the police involving firearms (excluding air weapons) by police force area appear in the publication "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10" (Table 2.11), a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. The Home Office has collected data on selected offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument via a special additional data collection since April 2007. The data for actual bodily harm (ABH) and Grievous bodily harm (GBH) offences in England and Wales involving a knife or a sharp instrument for 2008-09 and 2009-10 appear in "Crime in England and Wales 2009/10" (Tables 7.13 and 7.14).

The additional information requested is not available by police force area from offences recorded by the police.

Figures from the police recorded crime series for England and Wales since 1997 for all violent offences (including violence against the person), appear in the annual statistical bulletin 'Crime in England and Wales 2009/10' (Table 2.04).

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Bury St Edmunds constituency in each of the last five years. [53492]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office collects data on the number of violence against the person offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales but these data cannot be broken down to parliamentary constituency level. Data for each local authority area in Suffolk are shown in the following table.

Table A: Number of police recorded offences of violence against the person in Suffolk by local authority area, 2005-06 to 2009-10

Local Authority	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Babergh	725	724	633	751	730
Forest Heath	798	1,072	1,133	1,053	933
Ipswich	2,878	2,940	2,771	2,831	3,445
Mid Suffolk	599	608	607	616	640
St. Edmundsbury	1,454	1,509	1,438	1,333	1,444
Suffolk Coastal	1,265	1,054	1,052	972	1,116
Waveney	2,298	2,283	1,779	1,778	1,809
Total	10,017	10,190	9,413	9,434	10,117

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five years. [53454]

Damian Green: Figures given are as at 31 December for each year and Table 1 shows data for:

(a) the Home Department (including Headquarters, United Kingdom Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service, and Criminal Records Bureau); and

(b) Criminal Records Bureau.

Prior to June 2008 figures were reported by Cabinet Office using a different methodology of calculation which means that the figures for 2007 are not directly comparable with those for 2008 onwards. An overall departmental figure for 2006 is not available and to produce it retrospectively would incur a disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Average working days lost to sickness absence in the Home Department and Criminal Records Bureau 2007-10

	Average working days lost (days)	
	Home Department	*Criminal Records Bureau*
2007[1]	11.30	13.80
2008	9.91	10.17
2009	8.98	10.48

Table 1: Average working days lost to sickness absence in the Home Department and Criminal Records Bureau 2007-10

	Average working days lost (days)	
	Home Department	Criminal Records Bureau
2010	7.81	11.77

Standard:

[1] Cabinet Office calculation. A change in the method of calculation between 2007 and 2008 means that data for 2007 are not directly comparable with the rest of the time series shown.

Extract date:

31 December for each year shown.

Source:

2008-10—Data View: the Department's single source of monthly HR data, which was introduced from June 2008. 2007—departmental records systems.

Departmental Internet

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what websites her Department operates. [53383]

Damian Green: The Department operates the website

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

which incorporates the websites for the following NDPB's and public bodies:

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)
Animal Procedures Committee (APC)
Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)
Forensic Science Regulator (FSS)
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)
Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)
Security Industry Authority (SIA)
Technical Advisory Board (TAB)
UK Border Agency (UKBA)
National Refugee Integration Forum (NRIF)

The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner's website www.oisc.gov.uk by the end of June 2011.

The Government Equalities Office and the National Fraud Authority have recently become part of the Home Office. The content from these websites will be migrated into the Home Office website or Direct.gov.uk:

www.equalities.gov.uk

National Fraud Authority

www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk/nfa and www.actionfraud.org.uk

In addition, a number of websites are operated independently by non-departmental public bodies of the Home Office.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of her Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in an annual report in the most recent reporting year for which figures are available. [53464]

Damian Green: 204 staff in the Department (including its executive agencies) did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in an annual report in the 2009-10 reporting year (the latest year for which figures are available).

Departmental Surveys

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff surveys her Department has undertaken in the last 12 months; and at what cost to the public purse. [53505]

Damian Green: The Home Office participated in one people survey commissioned by the Cabinet Office in the last 12 months. We contributed £58,000 towards the cost of this.

Departmental Telecommunications

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on telecommunications in each year since 1997. [53489]

Damian Green: Expenditure for 2004-05 to 2010-11 is set out in the following table.

Telecommunication expenditure from 2004-05 to 2010-11

£000

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Core HO	10,717	14,422	12,818	14,173	15,803	2,904	2,476
UKBA	—	—	—	—	—	12,370	13,763
IPS	1,042	1,343	3,391	2,337	2,341	2,656	1,558
CRB	101	77	18	12	9	10	25
Total	11,860	15,688	16,227	16,522	18,153	17,940	17,822

1. On 1 April 2008 IPS took over responsibility for the GRO.
2. The 2010-11 figures are unaudited.

Records prior to 2004 were held on another, now obsolete financial system. Retrieval will result in disproportionate cost to the Home Office.

The UK Border Agency became an agency of the Home Office in 2009, therefore shown separately from the core Home Office figure for 2009-10 financial year.

The 2010-11 figures are unaudited and may be subject to change.

Departmental Work Experience

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in her Department since 8 May 2010. [53210]

Damian Green: The Home Office and its agencies has offered internships to 20 people since 8 May 2010, 19 as part of the Fast Stream Summer Placements and one

Windsor Fellowship. These interns will take up their placements between June and August 2011. These internships relate to the Graduate Fast Stream and are exempt from the recruitment freeze.

None of these is from the Bassetlaw constituency.

Detention Centres: Children

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consult children's and refugee charities on appointments to the Family Returns Panel. [52851]

Damian Green: Members of the independent Family Returns Panel will be appointed by means of an open recruitment process in the summer. There are no plans to consult with children's and refugee charities on the appointment of individual members but the selection criteria will take account of discussions held with a range of interested parties over recent months. In the meantime the current members of the Panel have joined it on an interim basis to get it up and running quickly.

Detention Centres: Families

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children remained in one parent's care while the other parent was detained for immigration purposes *(a)* in the most recent period and *(b)* in the last 10 years for which figures are available. [52852]

Damian Green: The information requested is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and could be obtained only through examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. However, in response to the Family Removals: Thematic Inspection report by the Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency, the UK Border Agency has committed to improving the management information held on families. The UK Border Agency takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children seriously and where possible ensures that families remain together. Typically, separations would take place only in cases where a member of the family is also a former foreign national prisoner and a decision has been made to maintain their detention pending deportation. Under the new arrangements for managing family returns, families without any criminal history would only be separated in exceptional circumstances and after advice had been sought from the independent Family Returns Panel.

Discrimination

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for discrimination in respect of *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation were brought against the Criminal Records Bureau by its staff in each of the last five years; and how many such claims were settled (i) in court and (ii) out of court in each case. [53490]

Lynne Featherstone: The Criminal Records Bureau has not had any claims of discrimination brought against it by staff employed within the Agency within the last five years.

Domestic Violence

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, HC 908, whether the prohibition on making an application under the domestic violence rule unless one has no unspent convictions applies to a person who has received *(a)* an absolute discharge and *(b)* a caution with conditions until such time as the conditions end; and if she will make a statement. [53185]

Damian Green: As a result of the changes to the Immigration Rules introduced on 6 April 2011, individuals applying for indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK must be free of unspent convictions in order to make a successful application. Settlement is a privilege to be awarded only to those who abide by the laws of this country.

An absolute discharge has a rehabilitation period of six months. A conditional caution has a rehabilitation period of three months. If an individual applied for indefinite leave under the domestic violence rule before such a conviction had become spent their application would not be successful. In cases where there is a need to protect a victim of domestic violence, there would be no question of requiring them to leave the UK or remain in an abusive relationship because of a minor conviction and the UK Border Agency will continue to look at cases sympathetically outside the Immigration Rules where appropriate.

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were issued in respect of vehicles operated by her Department and its agencies in the last five years; and what the total cost was. [53506]

Lynne Featherstone: For the Home Office and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) the cost and number of fixed penalty notices can not be identified without incurring disproportionate cost, as the Home Office and UKBA accounting system does not separately identify the costs incurred by the payment of fixed penalty notices.

The Identity and Passport Service incurred seven fixed penalty notices in the last five years at a total cost of £400.

The Criminal Records Bureau have not owned or operated any vehicles in the last five years and have therefore not incurred any such costs.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for driving cars while uninsured in each police authority area in the East of England in each year since 2008. [53441]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the East of England region for driving without insurance, by police force area, for the year 2006-09 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates court for driving without insurance, in the East of England region by police force area, 2006-09[1, 2]

		Proceeded against			
Statute	*Offence description*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Road Traffic Act 1988 S.143(2)	*Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks*				
Police force area within East of England					
Bedfordshire		2,702	2,436	2,572	2,683
Cambridgeshire		2,826	1,972	1,435	1,516
Essex		4,511	4,865	4,176	4,372
Hertfordshire		6,023	4,523	3,491	3,056
Norfolk		2,690	2,509	2,440	1,540
Suffolk		2,250	1,768	1,645	1,868
Total		21,002	18,073	15,759	15,035

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on car hire other than from the Government Car Service in each year since 1997; and whether her Department required particular specifications in respect of each car hired. [53432]

Damian Green: The Home Office and the UK Border Agency accounting system does not separately identify car hire from car hire which includes use of the Government Car Service.

The detail requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) of 7 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 872-3W, on illegal immigrants: employment, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the penalties levied are collected. [53189]

Damian Green: An employer has 28 days to pay an illegal working civil penalty or to submit an objection or appeal. If a penalty remains unpaid after the objection and/or appeal process the UK Border Agency refer the case for internal debt recovery action. If the penalty remains unpaid after the internal process the Agency works with a specialist third party debt recovery partner to enforce outstanding penalties. Recovery action may include but is not restricted to Court enforcement proceedings.

Imitation Firearms

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many replica firearms were confiscated in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [53486]

James Brokenshire: Information on confiscated firearms is not available centrally.

Knives: Crime

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been recovered in knife amnesty initiatives in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [53434]

James Brokenshire: Data on local police force area knife amnesty initiatives are not held by the Home Office. The last national knife amnesty was held in England and Wales between 24 May and 30 June 2006. A knife amnesty was held in Scotland from 25 May 2006 for one month and Northern Ireland from 25 May 2006 for three weeks.

According to figures supplied by the police, this national amnesty resulted in over 89,000 items being handed in.

Logos

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on the (i) design and production of new logos and (ii) employment of external (A) public relations and (B) graphic design agencies for each project of logo design or redesign in each year since 2000. [53480][1]

Damian Green: The following table summarises the spend of the Home Office and its agencies (Identity and Passport Service (IPS), Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and UK Border Agency) on logo design and employment of public relations and graphic design agencies, broken down by project.

It is not possible to separate out design costs from design agency costs, and therefore costs provided above cover parts (a) and (b).

The Home Office has spent nothing on design or production of new logos or on the employment of external public relations agencies for any project of logo design or redesign since 2008-09.

The UK Border Agency and IPS have spent nothing on design or production of new logos or on the employment of external public relations agencies for any project of logo design or redesign since 2007-08.

CRB have spent nothing on design or production of new logos or on the employment of external public relations agencies for any project of logo design or redesign since 2002-03.

1.*[Official Report, 12 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 7MC.]*

	Owner	*Project*	*Description*	*Cost (£)*
2000-01	HO	New Home Office corporate ID	Design, research, project management and style guidelines	155,000
2001-02	CRB	Criminal Records Bureau	Design and production of new logos and external Public Relations	120,000
	HO	Fire Service Branding	Design	2,914
	HO	Positive Futures Branding	Design	4,000
	HO	Drugs Prevention Advisory Service Rebrand	Design	10.000
Total 2001-02				291,914
2002-03	CRB	Criminal Records Bureau	Design and production of new logos and external Public Relations	200,000
2003-04	HO	Active Communities Unit	Logo development and corporate ID	45,200
	HO	Immigration and Nationality Directorate IRIS Recognition Branding	Design and production	35,000
Total 2003-04				80,200
2004-05	HO	Home Office	Modification and update of brand guidelines	5,500
	HO	National Offender Management Service	Identity creation, production of artwork and branding guidelines	46,000
	HO	Her Majesty's Prison Service	Modification of logo and production of brand guidelines	10,500
	HO	National Probation Service	Modification of logo and production of brand guidelines	10,230
	HO	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	Logo update and literature production update	4,999
	HO	Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives programme	Design and production of new logo	21,890
	HO	Senior Careers Advisory Service	Design and production of new materials	4,260
	HO	Immigration and Nationality Directorate	Research and registration of IRIS logo	4,395
	HO	CENTREX Police Training Branding	Design and production	15,280
Total 2004-05				123,054
2005-06	HO	Senior Careers Advisory Service	Final production costs relating to 04-05 work	734
	HO	The Information Commissioner	Logo development	600
	HO	Drugs Intervention Programme	Production to refresh programme materials in line with core Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives brand	10,280
	HO	Respect	Design, research, project management and style guidelines	56,733
	HO	CENTREX Police Training Branding	Final production	3,760
	HO	Criminal Justice IT Programme	Design and production of materials to support programme	10,080
Total 2005-06				82,187
2006-07	IPS	Identify and Passport Service	Brand clinics and brand photography	37,825
2007-08	IPS	Identify and Passport Service	Brand workshops and brand photography	17,304
	BIA	Immigration and Nationality Directorate rebrand as Border and Immigration Agency	Identity creation, production of artwork and branding guidelines	79,920
	UKBA	Border and Immigration Agency rebrand as UK Border Agency	Logo and template design and brand guidelines	30,200
	HO	Home Office brand refresh	Design	2,540
Total 2007-08				129,964
2008-09	HO	Knives campaign	Design and publication of stakeholder comms materials	50,000

Marriage of Convenience

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspected sham marriages were referred to the UK Border Agency by marriage registrars and clergy in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many such referrals resulted in prosecutions for offences under immigration legislation. [53138]

Damian Green: S24 and s24A of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 places a legal duty on civil registrars to report any reasonable suspicions they may have that a marriage or civil partnership is or may be a sham marriage, these are known as s24 reports. The Anglican

Church in England and Wales operates its own system of preliminaries and its clergy are not under the same legal obligation to report suspicions as civil registrars, although they are strongly encouraged to do so voluntarily, the Agency does not hold data on the number of reports that come from members of the Anglican clergy.

The Agency received 934 s24 reports from civil registrars during 2010, however as s24 reports represent a suspicion rather than a definite finding and do not include the Anglican church in England and Wales this figure can be not be seen as an absolute representation of the number of sham marriages in the UK.

Since January 2010 two periods of targeted enforcement actions have been conducted against those involved in sham marriages which resulted in 155 arrests. As entering in a sham marriage, in itself, is not a crime it is not possible to obtain definitive information on how many people have been prosecuted for involvement in sham marriages

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letter of 4 April 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North about a constituent, reference ADUR/100311/031061/1. [53791]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 27 April 2011.

Missing Children

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports police forces received of children *(a)* of each age and *(b)* of each sex missing from home in each of the last three years. [53509]

James Brokenshire: Data held by the National Missing Persons Bureau does not contain the level of detail sought. Police forces provide quarterly and annual data returns (numbers of missing person reports received) to the Bureau but only a number of these returns provide breakdowns by age and gender.

This information is therefore not collated centrally.

Offensive Weapons

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each police force area were convicted for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales in each year since 2007. [53418]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition, by police force area, England and Wales, 2007-09, can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition[1]*, by police force area, England and Wales, 2007-09*[2, 3]

Police force area	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	23	30	17
Bedfordshire	6	12	18
Cambridgeshire	9	6	13
Cheshire	11	12	20
City of London	1	1	4
Cleveland	9	14	17
Cumbria	13	10	7
Derbyshire	21	13	18
Devon and Cornwall	15	19	25
Dorset	12	12	11
Durham	15	14	8
Essex	29	28	27
Gloucestershire	4	8	8
Greater Manchester	83	90	93
Hampshire	24	22	23
Hertfordshire	24	27	17
Humberside	10	10	12
Kent	20	40	38
Lancashire	22	25	31
Leicestershire	22	16	15
Lincolnshire	4	8	13
Merseyside	53	79	68
Metropolitan police	386	449	400
Norfolk	10	5	7
North Yorkshire	8	5	9
Northamptonshire	4	5	11
Northumbria	31	31	37
Nottinghamshire	39	39	28
South Yorkshire	25	24	23
Staffordshire	26	14	23
Suffolk	7	4	7
Surrey	12	8	6
Sussex	22	24	23
Thames Valley	34	41	25
Warwickshire	7	7	5
West Mercia	10	13	12
West Midlands	91	99	123
West Yorkshire	30	42	41
Wiltshire	1	6	7
Dyfed-Powys	2	1	3
Gwent	7	10	6
North Wales	12	14	8
South Wales	23	21	34
Total England and Wales	1,217	1,358	1,343

[1] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 S.288
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1)(b) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003
Sec.288 Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A)(a) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288
Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A) (b),(c),(d)(e),(f) or (g) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288
Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons For whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty Is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Police: Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in the number of special constables serving in each police force area in England and Wales has been since March 2010. [51893]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* Data on special constable strength by police force area as at 30 September and 31 March 2010 with percentage changes over the six months period are given in the table.

Some forces' figures may be affected by seasonality as it is not a percentage change over a 12-month period. Figures for March 2011 will be available on 21 July 2011.

Special constable strength by English Government office regions and Wales (headcount)[1]

	Special constables			
	Strength as at:		*Change in 6 months*	
	March 2010	*September 2010*	*March 2010*	*September 2010*
English Government Office Regions and Wales	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Percentage*
North East	547	561	14	2.6
Cleveland	238	242	4	1.7
Durham	131	132	1	0.8
Northumbria	178	187	9	5.1
North West	1,731	1,878	147	8.5
Cheshire	300	360	60	20.0
Cumbria	115	139	24	20.9
Greater Manchester	400	451	51	12.8
Lancashire	470	462	-8	-1.7
Merseyside	446	466	20	4.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,173	1,193	20	1.7
Humberside	341	340	-1	-0.3
North Yorkshire	184	187	3	1.6
South Yorkshire	227	218	-9	-4.0
West Yorkshire	421	448	27	6.4
East Midlands	1,183	1,188	5	0.4
Derbyshire	302	297	-5	-1.7
Leicestershire	240	219	-21	-8.8
Lincolnshire	163	163	0	0.0
Northamptonshire	180	228	48	26.7
Nottinghamshire	298	281	-17	-5.7
West Midlands	1,370	1,468	98	7.2
Staffordshire	334	395	61	18.3
Warwickshire	212	205	-7	-3.3
West Mercia	233	256	23	9.9
West Midlands	591	612	21	3.6
Eastern	1,997	2,092	95	4.8
Bedfordshire	210	225	15	7.1
Cambridgeshire	167	189	22	13.2
Essex	682	679	-3	-0.4
Hertfordshire	344	393	49	14.2
Norfolk	266	273	7	2.6
Suffolk	328	333	5	1.5
London	3,256	4,023	767	23.6
London, City of	79	79	0	0.0
Metropolitan Police	3,177	3,944	767	24.1
South East	1,734	1,831	97	5.6
Hampshire	449	450	1	0.2
Kent	310	284	-26	-8.4
Surrey	327	347	20	6.1
Sussex	240	277	37	15.4
Thames Valley	408	473	65	15.9
South West	1,758	1,793	35	2.0
Avon & Somerset	449	461	12	2.7
Devon & Cornwall	592	632	40	6.8
Dorset	300	310	10	3.3
Gloucestershire	167	162	-5	-3.0
Wiltshire	250	228	-22	-8.8
Wales	756	745	-11	-1.5
Dyfed-Powys	171	170	-1	-0.6
Gwent	144	144	0	0.0
North Wales	193	217	24	12.4
South Wales	248	214	-34	-13.7
Total of all 43 forces	15,505	16,772	1,267	8.2
British Transport Police	176	191	15	8.5
Total Special constable Strength	15,681	16,963	1,282	8.2
Total Special constable Strength (excluding BTP)	15,505	16,772	1,267	8.2

[1] Police constable figures are given as headcount measure.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police constables Northumbria police employed in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [52024]

Nick Herbert: Available data relate to police constable strength for Northumbria, as at 31 March 2008, 2009 and 2010 and are given in the table.

Northumbria police constable strength[1] *as at 31 March 2008, 2009 and 2010*

	Number of police constables
2008	3,092
2009	3,216
2010	3,314

[1] These are full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Police: Redundancy Pay

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police authorities reported at least one special severance payment in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [52540]

(2) how many special severance payments were reported by Cambridgeshire Constabulary in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [52541]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The information requested is not held centrally. There is no requirement for police authorities to seek approval from or report to Government before making special severance payments.

Repatriation: Offenders

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any people detained under immigration rules offered to pay for their return flights to their country of origin in the last year for which figures are available. [52682]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not hold information on people detained under immigration powers that offer to pay for their return flights to their countries of origin.

Sexual Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals *(a)* convicted of a sex offence, *(b)* imprisoned for more than 12 months for violence and *(c)* assessed as being high risk there are on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register; and how many times the database has been accessed in each year since 1997. [53437]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

As at 31 March 2011 there were *(a)* 50,309 individuals convicted of a registered sexual offence, *(b)* 6,704 imprisoned for 12 months and over for violence and non-registerable sexual offences and *(c)* 17,734 assessed as being High or Very High Risk that are recorded on ViSOR in England and Wales.

ViSOR was introduced nationally only in 2005. It is routinely used by a large number of staff on a daily basis for the purposes of case management, risk assessment, information and intelligence sharing, and risk management planning. Data regarding the recorded levels of access are not collected.

Third Sector: Home Office

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1218W, on third sector, what information her Department holds on the distribution of grants paid to charities that her Department monitors. [52701]

Damian Green: The information held by the Department includes the name of the body receiving the grant, the purpose of the grant, the amount of the grant and the period of time for which the grant is paid. Additionally the Department monitors the achievement of outcomes for which the grant was provided. This is standard information monitored against all grants paid by the Department irrespective of type of recipient.

The above information could not be provided for those charities receiving grant from the Department without incurring disproportionate cost, as the Department's accounting system recognises charities within a greater grouping of over 300 not-for-profit organisations.

As well as charities (organisations defined by and registered with the Charity Commission) this group of organisations includes benevolent or philanthropic institutions and not-for-profit social enterprises.

Vetting: Fees and Charges

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the fee charged by the Criminal Records Bureau for a Criminal Records Bureau check has been increased; and what the percentage increase in fees has been. [53193]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The increase in the cost of an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check is directly linked to the Government's decision to scale back the Vetting and Barring scheme (VBS) to more common sense levels, which has resulted in the cancellation of the requirement to register with the VBS. This fee increase will directly fund the administration costs of the retained elements of the Scheme, such as the operation of the barring function operated by the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

The fee was increased by £8, representing an increase of approximately 22% but is significantly lower than the intended VBS registration fee of £64.

Vetting: Young People

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons aged under 18 years have had Criminal Records Bureau checks in each year since 2008-09. [53496]

Lynne Featherstone: The number of certificates issued by the Criminal Records Bureau to an applicant aged under-18 years of age at the date of application in each financial year since 2008-09 can be found in the following table. Please note that the figures shown represent the number of certificates issued and not the number of applicants as an individual may have been issued with more than one certificate.

Financial year	*Total certificate volumes*	*Certificate volumes issued to those aged under-18*
2008-09	3,853,686	130,708
2009-10	4,299,906	140,034
2010-11	4,311,820	149,860

Written Questions

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parliamentary questions for written answer her Department took longer than 10 days to answer in each of the last three years. [53511]

Damian Green: On 11 March 2011, the Procedure Committee published a memorandum submitted by the Leader of the House of Commons, my right hon. Friend the Member for North West Hampshire (Sir George Young), giving the statistics for all written parliamentary questions in the 2009-10 session. This memorandum stated that the Home Office took longer than 10 days to answer 345 out of 1,600 (21.6%) ordinary written questions during that session. 55 out of 542 questions (10.1%) for answer on a named day took longer than 10 days to answer.

In the current session to end-March 2011, the Home Office (including the Government Equalities Office) has taken longer than 10 days to answer 351 out of 2,415 (14.5%) ordinary written questions and 146 out of 875 (16.7%) named day questions.

Detailed information of this type is not available for questions asked in earlier sessions.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53801]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not own any buildings.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52803]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not issue any general advice to those wishing to work as an intern, undertake a work experience placement, or work as a volunteer in this Department. As a very small Department of only 57 people, the scope for such placements is limited. Any request for a placement is dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Employment Schemes

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the awarding of Scottish contracts to private companies as part of the Work programme. [52733]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland has discussed the outcome of the Work programme contracting process with Work and Pensions ministerial colleagues on several occasions in recent weeks.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions before the awarding of Work programme contracts covering Scotland. [53302]

David Mundell: Over the past year, the Secretary of State for Scotland and I have had numerous discussions related to the Work programme with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the Scottish voluntary sector to discuss Work programme contracts; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [53931]

Michael Moore: I discussed the Work programme with representatives of the Scottish voluntary sector at a meeting with key stakeholders on Thursday 7 April. I invited the Minister of State for Employment, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling), to address that meeting and he encouraged Work programme providers, who were also in attendance, to engage effectively with the voluntary sector in Scotland in the delivery of the programme.

WALES

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what advice her Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in her Department. [52820]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not issue any general advice to those wishing to work as an intern, undertake a work experience placement, or, work as a volunteer in this department. As a very small Department of only 62 people, the scope for such placements is limited. Any such request is therefore dealt with on a case by case basis.

PRIME MINISTER

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations Summit

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to attend the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations summit in June 2011. [52702]

The Prime Minister: I am pleased that the Government are hosting the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations summit this June. This is an important moment for the international community to come together to help GAVI meet its ambitious plans to vaccinate 250 million children by 2015. For security reasons, my engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

Nuclear Power: National Policy Statements

Mr Sanders: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to page 17 of the Coalition Agreement, whether the abstentions on any vote on a national planning statement on nuclear power by Liberal Democrat hon. Members include such hon. Members who are serving as Ministers of the Crown. [53720]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to page 17 of the coalition agreement.

Prince William: Marriage

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister whether his Office was consulted on the issue of invitations to the wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton. [53755]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the press briefing given by official spokesperson on 26 April 2011. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-briefings/2011/04/morning-press-briefing-from-26-april-2011-63311

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against objectives for efficiency savings in respect of affordable housing in 2009-10. [51765]

Andrew Stunell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), to my hon. Friend the Member for Southport (John Pugh) on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 615-16W, which referred to a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector. As a result of this Departments were no longer required to report against the previous Government's efficiency targets.

That notwithstanding, at the comprehensive spending review 2007, the Department was set a target to achieve £887 million value for money savings by 2010-11, made up of £734 million savings in affordable housing, £110 million in Fire and Rescue, and £43 million in administration. Provisional figures indicate that only £128 million of affordable housing savings were actually delivered.

Audit Commission

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at which restaurants in London meals have been paid for using public funds by the Audit Commission in the last 18 months. [51977]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

For the interests of clarity, the meal with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury was under the last Administration.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 3 May 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Audit Commission staff regularly stay overnight in London while attending meetings at the Commission's Millbank office, or meeting with clients, including other inspectorates, government departments and representative bodies, in the London area. The cost of evening meals are incorporated into the hotel accommodation invoices and we are unable to extract this information without incurring disproportionate costs. We are able to identify a list of payments made to London restaurants where groups of staff have eaten outside of the hotel or where hospitality has been provided to other inspectorates and government departments and the Government Procurement Card has been used.

Restaurant	*Occasion*	*Total (£)*
Quirinale	Hospitality—HM Chief Inspector Ofsted	87.69
Casa Madeira	Staff evening meal	16.95
Garfunkels	Staff evening meal	20.00
Pizza Express	Staff evening meal	22.00
Bella Italia	Staff evening meal	23.55
Pizza Express	Staff evening meal	29.00
Millbank Spice	Staff group evening meal	62.70
Pizza Express	Staff group evening meal	44.99
Pizza Express	Staff group evening meal	42.01
Millbank Spice	Staff group evening meal	30.91
Pizza Express	Staff group evening meal	49.20
Bentleys Seafood Restaurant	Board Dinner	770.21
Sofitel St James	Hospitality—Chief Secretary to the Treasury	96.75

Brighton and Hove: Funding

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department were available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; how much was available in such grants; how many such grants were made; and how much was awarded in such grants; [51844]

(2) how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department are available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in 2011-12; how much is available in such grants; how many such grants have been made; and how much is to be awarded in such grants. [51848]

Robert Neill: A summary of the ring-fenced specific revenue and capital grants provided to Brighton and Hove city council by the Department for Communities and Local Government between 2007-08 and 2010-11 is provided in the following table. The amounts allocated were paid in full:

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Revenue:				
Supporting People	12.659	12.464	—	—
New Deal for Communities	4.122	1.147	0.073	—
Capital:				
Disabled Facilities Grant	0.521	0.660	0.660	0.660
Revenue and Capital:				
Free Swimming	—	—	0.229	—

From 2011-12 the Government have ended the ring-fencing of grants, except for simplified school grants and a new public health grant from 2013-14. My Department has no ring-fenced grants in 2011-12.

For the avoidance of doubt, this table only illustrates ring-fenced grants. It does not include specific grants which have continued in a non-ringfenced form, nor grants which have been rolled into formula grant.

Community Development: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget was of his Department and its predecessors for supporting communities in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of this budget in each of the next five years. [53768]

Andrew Stunell: There are a number of different budgets within the Department that either entirely or in part contribute towards supporting communities in one form or another. These include the payments to local government through formula grant, targeted grant programmes paid to the voluntary and community sector, such as community empowerment, and funding provided for regeneration such as the new deal for communities programme. It would not be possible for the Department to identify the proportion of these funds paid out per year, or estimate how much will be paid out in the future directly to support communities without disproportionate cost.

Construction: Standards

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings his Department has had with representatives of TrustMark in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [52821]

Andrew Stunell: The Department has had infrequent meetings directly with TrustMark representatives over the last five years, and has been present at a large number of meetings where TrustMark representatives have also been present. However information on these is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the proposed changes to the Firefighters Pension Scheme are sustainable and progressive; [52242]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed changes to the Firefighters Pension Scheme on part-time members of staff who are members of the scheme; [52245]

(3) whether he has carried out an impact assessment on the proposed change to the Firefighters Pension Scheme; and what his estimate is of the change in the opt-out rate resulting from implementation of the changes. [52254]

Robert Neill: At the spending review the Government announced changes to the level of employee contribution rates which would lead to total savings of £2.8 billion a year by 2014-15, to be phased in from April 2012. Discussions about how this will be implemented are ongoing with unions in the context of wider ranging pension discussions. The Government will put forward proposals in due course, and will then begin formal consultation on the necessary changes to scheme regulations.

The Government are committed to protecting low earners and ensuring changes are both sustainable and progressive.

[1] The Treasury published an estimate of likely opt-out rates at the spending review:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

This estimate has been scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, and will be reviewed when the Government put forward final designs.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords who will amend their allocation procedures in 2011-12 in order to enable tenants to downsize to avoid housing benefits reductions for under-occupation of their home. [53740]

Grant Shapps: Local authorities and social landlords should already be helping social tenants who wish to move to smaller properties, and many do so. Provisions in the Localism Bill will make it easier for local authorities to give priority to existing tenants wishing to move.

We have also established an action team based in the Chartered Institute of Housing to support local authorities and housing associations to promote moves by under-occupiers, and this will include ensuring their allocation policies are aligned with this objective.

Housing: Construction

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to ensure communication and coordination between communities on house-building strategies. [50467]

Greg Clark: Local councils are currently required to consult each other when they are preparing local plans and they are required to demonstrate that their local plans are deliverable. This is an important part of the local plan testing and examination process. Authorities and key partners are required to engage in a timely and effective two way discussion on deliverability as part of this process. Where authorities cannot demonstrate that their plans are deliverable they will not be found sound and cannot be adopted.

Housing: Older People

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the report of the Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation. [52749]

Andrew Stunell: The Housing our Ageing Population Panel report was commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health to look at the future of housing for older people. The report was published in December 2009 and sets out a series of case studies from Britain and Europe demonstrating best practice and innovation in housing designed for older people. It also makes a number of recommendations for all partners involved in the provision of housing for older people, including central and local government.

It is our hope that others involved in the design and supply of housing for older people will take inspiration from the case studies in the report.

Government continue to work with industry to explore ways in which standards, including the Building Regulations, can be simplified to reduce overlap and contradiction. We will consider the planning issues raised in the report as we progress with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Local Government Services

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of statutory duties on local authorities concerning disabled children, young people, their families and carers; and if he will take steps to ensure that any changes to such statutory duties are subject to a *(a)* formal consultation and *(b)* full impact assessment. [51766]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) on 4 April, *Official Report*, column 739. The Government are looking to remove unnecessary, old and outdated statutory burdens imposed on local councils from Whitehall. It is not aimed at removing those which protect vital frontline services or the vulnerable. Until now, there has been no comprehensive list of the legal duties placed on councils. To remedy this, the Government agreed with the Local Government Association (the national body representing councils) that we should compile such a list so that everyone is clear what legal obligations local councils have and check whether the duties are still relevant.

There is no implication that any particular duty on the list is being considered for removal, and there is certainly no intention to remove the duties on councils with respect to support for disabled children and children with special educational needs.

The review is as much about ensuring vital duties are retained as it is about removing unnecessary burdens. Any changes to statutory duties which come about as a result of the review will be properly considered and consulted on where necessary.

Local Government: Pensions

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken of planned increases in employees' contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme in the local authority grant settlement for *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [52715]

Robert Neill: Decisions about the overall level of Government grant to local government are taken in spending reviews.

The local government settlement in the 2010 spending review was determined in the context of the overall level of affordable public spending, consistent with the Government's aim of tackling the fiscal deficit. It took into account a wide range of factors which will affect local authority budgets over the period.

The Government announced at the spending review that they accepted the view of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission that there is a clear rationale for public servants to make a greater contribution if their pensions are to remain fair to taxpayers and employees, and affordable for the country.

The cost of the Local Government Pension Scheme to taxpayers has risen from £1.5 billion in 1997-98 to £5.8 billion in 2009 -10. In this context, it is right and fair to take steps to protect local taxpayers from the cost of further increases.

Markets

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to assist the development of open air markets. [53678]

Andrew Stunell: There are over 1,000 retail markets in the UK, which bring significant economic, social and environmental benefits. Markets can be an important part of the strong retail mix that town centres need to attract shoppers and provide consumer choice. Markets provide job opportunities and a place for people to meet. They can provide identities for local communities, strengthening tourism and promoting healthy eating and local specialities. Decisions on the management of markets are for local authorities to make.

Open air markets (but not car boot sales) are covered in the remit of the Working Group on Retail Markets that my Department has responsibility for. The working group includes representatives from Government Departments that have an interest in markets, the markets industry—including local authority, privately run, social enterprise and farmers' markets—and the Local Government Association markets champion. The industry has recently produced a range of publications on good practice, management models and the role of markets within the local community. Priorities for the working group are to work with the industry and the association to enable markets to continue at a challenging time when local authorities are under pressure, and to encourage new entrepreneurs to become market traders.

Non-Domestic Rates: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in Milton Keynes were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* received small business rate relief in the last year for which figures are available. [51928]

Robert Neill: Milton Keynes council reported on their National non-domestic rates (NNDR1) budget form that 1,048 hereditaments were in receipt of a discount from the small business rate relief scheme as at

31 December 2009. A further 284 hereditaments were only paying the small business rate multiplier without being granted a discount. Information on numbers of businesses eligible for the relief is not held centrally.

The Government are taking steps through the Localism Bill to help automate the take-up of small business rate relief.

Non-Domestic Rates: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses in St Albans constituency were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* received small business rate relief in the last year for which figures are available. [52120]

Robert Neill: Information is not collected at constituency level. However St Albans city and district council reported on their national non-domestic rates (NNDR1) budget form that 593 hereditaments were in receipt of a discount from the small business rate relief scheme as at 31 December 2009. A further 156 hereditaments were paying only the small business rate multiplier without being granted a discount. Information on numbers of businesses eligible for the relief is not held centrally.

The Government are taking steps through the Localism Bill to help automate the take-up of small business rate relief.

Northern Rock: Newcastle

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has received any representations on *(a)* the purchase by Newcastle City Council of the Northern Rock Tower and *(b)* the effect of that purchase on the market for office space in Newcastle upon Tyne. [51498]

Greg Clark: The Department for Communities and Local Government has received no representations on this purchase.

Private Rented Housing: Regulation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the exemption from new regulations for small businesses announced in the 2011 Budget will apply to private sector landlords. [51787]

Andrew Stunell: Where a private landlord falls within the definition of a micro business—that is, a business employing less than 10 people—our current expectation is that the exemption from new regulations will apply. However, as I outlined in my answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 8W, the Government do not have plans to introduce greater regulation into the sector as a whole.

Regional Planning and Development

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on local development frameworks following the abolition of regional spatial strategies; [50365]

(2) what *(a)* transitional arrangements and *(b)* guidance will be available to local authorities following the abolition of regional spatial strategies; [50371]

(3) what steps he has taken to provide *(a)* transitional arrangements and *(b)* guidance on the development of local development frameworks following the abolition of regional spatial strategies. [50724]

Greg Clark: The coalition agreement clearly set out the Government's intention to abolish regional strategies and return democratic decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils.

The chief planner has written to all local authorities making clear that pending abolition of regional strategies all planning decisions must be made in accordance with the 'development plan', including regional strategies, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's intention to abolish regional strategies is a material consideration.

Local planning authorities should press ahead without delay in preparing up-to-date development plans and should use that opportunity to be proactive in driving and supporting the growth the country needs.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department is providing to local authorities on consideration of renewable energy proposals following the abolition of regional spatial strategies. [50367]

Greg Clark: Policy for planning and renewable energy is set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will take steps to ensure that all areas formerly covered by regional spatial strategies are included in local development frameworks; [50664]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the extent of areas formerly covered by regional spatial strategies which are not covered by proposals for local development frameworks. [50665]

Greg Clark: Local planning authorities should continue to develop local development framework core strategies and other development plan documents, reflecting local people's aspirations and decisions on important issues such as climate change, housing and economic development, having regard to national policy.

National policy is set out in the existing Planning Policy Statements, Planning Policy Guidance, Minerals Policy Statements and Minerals Policy Guidance and other documents including circulars.

It is for local planning authorities to decide if they want to amend their plans, or produce additional plans, to address any issues in regional strategies not already covered in their plans.

Vacant Land: Property Development

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 2.21 of The Plan for Growth, March 2011, what assessment he has made of the effect of the removal of targets for levels of development on previously developed land on future levels of development on greenfield sites. [52137]

Robert Neill: The Government will, through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), localise choice about the use of previously developed land by removing the national target for the amount of housing development that should take place on previously developed land, and at the same time provide for local communities to be able to identify and protect green space of importance.

We will consult on the draft National Planning Policy Framework in the summer. A draft impact assessment will be published for consultation alongside the National Planning Policy Framework.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Pensions

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what meetings he has had with employee representatives from My Civil Service Pension prior to his announcement of 12 April 2011. [53642]

Mr Maude: I have met with PCS Trade Union representatives to talk about My Civil Service Pension on 31 March 2011. My officials (including Phil Bartlett, chief executive of MyCSP), have held regular meetings with the Trade Unions, on:

23 September 2010
14 December 2010
17 January 2011
9 March 2011
24 March 2011
7 April 2011
19 April 2011

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to provide further information on proposed changes to the ownership structure of My Civil Service Pension. [53643]

Mr Maude: On 12 April I announced that we are working to support the management and employees of My Civil Service Pension to create a mutual joint venture. Since then considerable work has been taken forward and following an extensive programme of engagement with employees over the next few months, I will provide further information on the ownership structure of My Civil Service Pension.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on departmental personnel, how many staff in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies have no post; and how many such staff have been classified as such for at least *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months. [51808]

Mr Maude: As at 31 March 2011, Cabinet Office and its non-departmental public bodies had 10 staff who were without permanent roles:

Five have been classified as such for between three and six months; and

Five have been classified as such for between six and 12 months.

All staff without permanent roles are assigned to critical projects or interim work while a suitable permanent role is identified.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of military action in Afghanistan since 2001. [53192]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The annual audited figures for the costs of operations in Afghanistan since financial year 2001-02 are shown in the following table:

Operations in Afghanistan

£ million

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total spend to date*
Resource	187	236	36	58	148	560	1,071	1,655	2,330	6,281
Capital costs	34	75	10	9	51	178	433	968	1,491	3,249
Total	221	311	46	67	199	738	1,504	2,623	3,821	9,530

The estimated costs of operations in Afghanistan for financial year 2010-11 are shown in the following table:

Operations in Afghanistan

	2010-11 Estimate (£ million)
Resource	3,101
Capital costs	1,390
Annually managed expenditure	6
Total estimated costs	4,497

Armed Forces: Health Services

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to provide assistance for armed forces personnel affected by *(a)* post traumatic stress and *(b)* physical trauma. [53319]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) provides a comprehensive programme of medical support for service personnel, and the strategic defence and security review included a commitment to maintain and further develop the medical support provided by the Defence Medical Services and the NHS.

We train armed forces personnel and their commanders about the need to recognise mental health disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder, and how to seek help if necessary. In Afghanistan, we deploy uniformed mental health nurses to provide assessment and treatment, and have successfully introduced an informal peer-led programme known as TRiM (Trauma Risk Management). In the UK, we provide community-based mental health care, both at local unit level and through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health across the UK (plus centres overseas), which provide out-patient treatment. In-patient care, when necessary, is provided in specialised psychiatric units under contract with the NHS. We are working with the Department of Health to enhance existing healthcare services by implementing recommendations made by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in his "Fighting Fit" report into the health of our armed forces.

For operational trauma casualties in Afghanistan, those whose injuries are too serious to be treated at the Camp Bastion Field Hospital are aeromedically evacuated back to the UK, where they will usually be admitted to the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Edgbaston, Birmingham. This brand-new NHS hospital is at the leading edge in the medical care of serious polytrauma, as commonly sustained by our operational casualties. We can be sure that by admitting them to that hospital they will have immediate access to some of the best clinical specialists and medical equipment available in the UK today.

Post-hospital rehabilitation and ongoing treatment is also available through a range of specialist MOD facilities, including 15 Regional Rehabilitation Units around the UK and overseas, which offer a range of rehabilitation and physiotherapy to those requiring it. For those needing the most specialist treatment, such as amputees, the dedicated Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey provides a first-rate facility on an in-patient basis to service personnel from all parts of the UK.

Armed Forces: Officers

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ratio of officers to enlisted service personnel was in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in (i) 1981, (ii) 1985, (iii) 1990, (iv) 1995, (v) 2000, (vi) 2005 and (vii) 2010. [53219]

Mr Robathan: The ratio of officers to other ranks for the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force for the requested years is as follows:

	1981	*1985*	*1990*	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2010*
Royal Navy	1:6	1:6	1:5	1:5	1:5	1:4	1:4
Army	1:9	1:8	1:8	1:7	1:7	1:6	1:6
Royal Air Force	1:5	1:5	1:5	1:5	1:4	1:4	1:3

Note:
Figures are for UK regular forces, trained and untrained, and exclude Gurkhas, full-time reserve service personnel and mobilised reservists.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the monetary value of payments which would be lost to *(a)* armed forces veterans, *(b)* war widows and *(c)* injured soldiers over (i) 10 years and (ii) 20 years as a result of the reduction in (A) armed forces pensions, (B) benefits for war widows and (C) benefits for injured soldiers. [52968]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Nick Smith) on 26 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 327W.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will reverse his decision to change the index used for armed forces pensions from retail prices index to consumer prices index. [52969]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Delyn (Mr Hanson) on 31 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 570.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on his decision to reduce pensions and benefits payments for war widows and injured soldiers; and if he will make a statement. [52970]

Mr Robathan: No decision has been taken to reduce pensions and benefits payments for war widows and injured personnel.

We have received a small number of representations relating to these groups and the using of the consumer prices index method to calculate increases to pensions and benefits rather than the retail prices index. This includes discussions with the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation, a statutorily-established advisory committee made up of internal and external members.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people resident in *(a)* Glenrothes constituency and *(b)* Fife are in receipt of (i) a war pension and (ii) payments from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. [52971]

Mr Robathan: The War Pension Scheme (WPS) provides no fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for illness, injury or death as a result of service from the start of the first world war in 1914 up until 5 April 2005.

As at 30 September 2010 (the latest date for which figures are available), 205 individuals in the parliamentary constituency of Glenrothes, and 1,495 individuals in Fife were receiving an ongoing pension under the WPS.

The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was introduced on 6 April 2005 to provide compensation to service personnel and their dependants for illness, injury or death as a result of service from this date.

As at 31 December 2010 (the latest date for which figures are available), fewer than five individuals in the parliamentary constituency of Glenrothes, and 45 individuals in Fife were awarded lump sum compensation payments under the AFCS. No individuals in the parliamentary constituency of Glenrothes and fewer than five individuals in Fife were receiving either guaranteed income payments (GIP) or survivor's guaranteed income payments (SGIP) under the AFCS.

Notes:

1. Guaranteed income payment (GIP)—regular payment to service person to provide a continuous income stream.
2. Survivor's guaranteed income payment (SGIP)—regular payment to surviving dependant(s) to provide continuous financial support.
3. In accordance with DASA's rounding policy, all figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest five and figures fewer than five have been suppressed.

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the legal advice received by his Department on the enlistment of minors in the UK armed forces. [52876]

Mr Robathan: Given that the recruitment of those under the age of 18 has been policy for decades, it is not possible to ascertain without incurring disproportionate costs what legal advice was received by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) or its predecessors. However, in recent years no external legal advice has been received by the MOD on this matter.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel under the age of 18 have required medical treatment for training-related injuries in each of the last five years. [52878]

Mr Robathan: Statistics on specifically training-related injuries are not held centrally. However, information held on the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) indicates that there were 1,220 UK regular forces personnel under the age of 18 who had an injury recorded in their DMICP primary health care record during the period 1 March 2010 to 28 February 2011.

Complete DMICP primary care data are not available prior to 2010, and to obtain equivalent figures for previous years would require analysis of individual medical records, which would entail disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53814]

Mr Robathan: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost given the extensive Ministry of Defence (MOD) estate.

The MOD accounts for its assets based on their existing use and depreciated replacement cost. Valuations are carried out every five years on this basis.

It is not possible to give the estimated monetary value of each building as the department does not maintain that information. Given the size of the estate, such valuations would be expensive to commission, and require frequent updating to allow for changing market conditions and other factors.

Asset valuations of major Defence assets based on their existing use are included in the National Asset Register and can be found at the following website:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm70/7022/7022.asp

Ex-servicemen: Employment

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to help former military service personnel find civilian employment. [53734]

Mr Robathan: Prior to discharge, individual employment needs are identified from a mandatory interview with a trained service resettlement adviser who is able to signpost a number of organisations and services ranging from the 'Flexible New Deal' programme available at Jobcentre Plus to workshops and training delivered through the Career Transition Partnership. For those who have left, lifetime job finding support is available through the Officers' Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association. There are also various regimental associations, for example RAJA (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (REME) Association Job Agency) that provide further help for former soldiers of certain regiments.

In addition, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and armed forces champions have been appointed that aim to ensure Jobcentre Plus staff are providing the correct advice and support, not only to families of our armed forces but also to former service personnel. We shall also be conducting an early service leaver trial later this year (for those who leave with less than four years' service) which aims to improve the resettlement provision for this cohort.

Ex-servicemen: Travel

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place to enable servicemen and women who are discharged whilst overseas to travel home. [53584]

Mr Robathan: Service personnel whose service is terminated at their own request are not entitled to travel home at public expense unless they have completed more than four years' service. In all other instances of termination or discharge, service persons (and their accompanying immediate family members) may travel home at public expense subject to the following rules:

When service personnel are discharged from overseas and choose to settle in the UK, they will be entitled to travel at public expense from their last place of duty to a selected place of residence in the UK (or the Republic of Ireland, if they were recruited from, or would normally live there).

When service personnel are discharged from overseas and choose to settle overseas, they will be entitled to travel at public expense from their last place of duty to the overseas location of their choice. However, if they choose to settle in a country that is more distant than the UK, the travel costs that they may claim are limited to the equivalent cost of travel to the UK.

Additionally, service personnel who were attested overseas, and who were then conveyed to the UK at public expense may be returned to the country in which they were attested also at public expense on termination of their service.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* air to surface missiles, *(b)* air to air missiles, *(c)* ship to surface missiles and *(d)* ship to air missiles have been fired by UK forces deployed in Libya during the recent conflict. [53339]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* We carefully select the type of weapon in every engagement to ensure the most appropriate munition is used to deliver the required effect, while minimising the risk to civilian casualties. From the start of recent operations in Libya up till 24 April 2011, UK forces have fired around 170 air to surface munitions and a number of ship to surface missiles.

Over the same period, UK forces have not employed any air to air or ship to air missiles.

I am withholding the number of ship to surface missiles as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Prince William: Marriage

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* funding and *(b)* resources his Department has allocated to activities related to the royal wedding. [52738]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence allocated in the region of £75,000 in funding for the fly past as well as the transportation of military bands and route liners. The majority of service personnel were provided by London district from those employed on ceremonial duties and other London based units to minimise travel and subsistence expenditure.

The military elements comprised:

The 1st Battalion Irish Guards—The Queen's Guard.

A Guard of Honour of three officers and 101 other ranks from the Welsh Guards with a band of the Welsh Guards.

46 officers and 840 other ranks from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force who lined the route.

One band from the Royal Navy, four bands from the Army and one band from the Royal Air Force.

The Sovereign's Escort and Captain's Escort involving the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and some 160 horses.

24 personnel at the Great West Door.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane) accompanied by a flypast of four aircraft (two Typhoons and two Tornadoes).

Information on the full armed forces component of this historic occasion can be found on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/HistoryAndHonour/ArmedForcesRoleInRoyalWeddingAnnounced.htm

TREASURY

Banks: Loans

Mr Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of how much and what proportion of the *(a)* total lending to businesses and *(b)* lending for 2011 above 2010 levels set out in the Project Merlin agreement to be provided by each financial institution subject to that agreement is to be attributable to (i) leasing and borrowing on the asset base, (ii) invoice financing, (iii) loans, (iv) intra-group finance and (v) actual drawn down overdraft balances; [53886]

(2) what the target level is for the proportion of *(a)* total lending to businesses and *(b)* lending for 2011 above the 2010 level set out in the Project Merlin agreement to be provided by each financial institution subject to that agreement for (i) leasing and borrowing on the asset base, (ii) invoice financing, (iii) loans, (iv) intra-group finance and (v) actual drawn down overdraft balances; [53887]

(3) how much and what proportion of the *(a)* total lending to small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* lending to such enterprises for 2011 above the 2010 levels set out in the Project Merlin agreement is to be provided by each financial institution subject to that agreement; and how much and what proportion (i) in total and (ii) by each such institution he estimates will be attributable to (A) leasing and borrowing on the asset base, (B) invoicing financing, (C) loans, (D) intra-group lending and (D) actual drawn down overdraft balances; [53888]

(4) what the 2010 target level for the proportion of the *(a)* total lending to small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* lending to such enterprises for 2011 above the 2010 level set out in the Project Merlin agreement is to be provided by each financial institution subject to that agreement for (i) leasing and borrowing on the asset base, (ii) invoice financing, (iii) loans, (iv) intra-group finance and (v) actual drawn down overdraft balances; [53890]

(5) how much and what proportion of the *(a)* total lending and *(b)* lending for 2011 above the 2010 level set out in the Project Merlin agreement is to be provided (i) in total and (ii) by each financial institution subject to the agreement as (A) gross loans, (B) net increase to existing loans and (C) new loans to (1) all businesses and (2) small and medium-sized enterprises. [53891]

Mr Hoban: As announced on 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 310-13, by the Chancellor, the UK's five major banks have stated a capacity and willingness to lend £190 billion of new credit to business in 2011. This includes £76 billion of new lending to SMEs, which is a 15% increase on the amount lent in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more.

The Bank of England will report, on a quarterly basis, the banks' total new lending to all businesses (and within that, to SMEs) under the definitions used for Project Merlin. There is no further breakdown of the Project Merlin lending agreement either by institution or by type of lending.

Business: Universities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many meetings representatives of his Department held with senior university staff in each month in 2011 at which the relationship between universities and business was discussed; [53090]

(2) how many meetings his Department had with representatives of the business community in each month in 2011 at which the relationship between universities and business was discussed; [53091]

(3) how many meetings his Department held with senior regional development agency staff in each month in 2011 at which the relationship between universities and business was discussed. [52684]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* Treasury Ministers and officials regularly meet with representatives from a wide range of public and private sector organisations, including the business community, regional development agencies and the university sector. Such engagement occurs throughout policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Construction Industry Scheme

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the abolition of the Construction Industry Scheme team on *(a)* the incidence of employees being wrongly designated as self-employed and *(b)* levels of revenue accruing to the Exchequer; what the outcome of that assessment was; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the assessment; [52901]

(2) what risk analysis his Department conducted in respect of the proposed abolition of the Construction Industry Scheme team; what the outcome of that analysis was; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the analysis. [52902]

Mr Gauke: The Construction Industry Scheme was not abolished, but continues under a different structure within local compliance.

The analysis was built from a number of intelligence briefings and strategic intelligence assessments which were protectively marked and only to be viewed with the permission of the author. It would not be appropriate to place the analysis in the Library.

Departmental Work Experience

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53208]

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52819]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury does not have its own scheme for work experience or internships, but participates in schemes run centrally by the Cabinet Office. Any individuals enquiring about internships are directed to the schemes in operation at the time, including Summer Diversity Internships and Government Economics Services Internships, and to the civil service website where details are available of internships offered by other Government Departments.

In respect of the number of UK students offered internships at HM Treasury since 8 May 2010, I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 896W. Data on the country of origin and parliamentary constituency of such students are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Equality Act 2010

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Financial Statement of 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 955, if he will publish the evidence on which the decision not to implement the dual discrimination rules under the Equality Act 2010 were based. [49728]

Lynne Featherstone: I have been asked to reply.

The decision not to take forward the dual discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010 was taken following assessment by the Government Equalities Office of the costs and benefits associated with the commencement of those provisions. A decision on publication of that evidence will be made in due course.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Nick Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what further plans he has for the level of fuel duty in each year to 2015; [52690]

(2) pursuant to the Budget Statement of 23 March 2011, what steps the Government have taken in relation to the passing on to consumers of the reduction of one penny in fuel duty; [52691]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the reduction in fuel duty on the logistics industry in the UK. [52692]

Justine Greening: Budget 2011 abolished the fuel duty escalator and replaced it with a fair fuel stabiliser. Duty will increase by inflation only, when oil prices are high. If the oil price falls below a set trigger price on a sustained basis duty will increase by RPI plus 1p per litre. The Government will consult informally before setting the level and mechanism for the trigger.

Average fuel price data suggest that generally there has been a pass through of the 1p per litre reduction in duty on deliveries from refineries, although ongoing increases in the price of oil have also impacted pump prices. The duty reduction potentially helps to ease the cost pressure of peaking oil prices on the logistics industry.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on excise duties: fuel, for what reasons he is not applying to the European Commission to implement the 5 pence per litre rural fuel duty rebate to cover North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [53180]

Justine Greening: A derogation request was submitted to the European Commission on Budget day for a rural fuel duty pilot scheme. This is intended to deliver a 5 pence per litre duty discount on petrol and diesel across the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles, the islands in the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly.

Pump prices in these areas are particularly high compared to mainland areas because of the high cost of transporting and distributing fuel to remote rural island communities.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how he expects the fuel duty stabiliser introduced in the 2011 Budget will help stabilise petrol and diesel pump prices. [53921]

Neil Parish: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish a cross-departmental review of the tax incentives offered for biodiesel. [54069]

Justine Greening: The fair fuel stabiliser ensures that when oil prices are high, as now, fuel duty will increase by inflation only.

Biodiesel is supported through the Department for Transport-administered Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). Unlike the excise duty system the RTFO is able to distinguish the environmental sustainability of biodiesel supplies and therefore help to safeguard against deforestation and unsustainable impacts on food crop production.

Income Tax

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 26 of his Department's Budget 2011 policy costings document, if he will publish the projections of future incomes based on the Survey of Personal Incomes. [53092]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The income tax base for policy costings is estimated using data on taxable incomes taken from the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI).

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 SPI using projections consistent with the OBR's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook, details of which are available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

The estimated average total income of taxpayers in 2012-13 to 2015-16 taking account of all policy announcements up to 2015-16 is shown in the following table.

	Taxpayers average total income (£)
2012-13	31,500
2013-14	32,600
2014-15	34,000
2015-16	35,400

PAYE: Parish Councils

Mr Brine: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on parish council budgets of the recent guidance issued by HM Revenue and Customs requiring such councils to operate the pay as you earn system on income received by parish clerks for the purposes of *(a)* tax and *(b)* national insurance contributions. [53168]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not have an assessment of the effects on parish councils budget of operating pay as you earn (PAYE) scheme on payments made to parish clerks.

HMRC does recognise that employers, particularly small employers operating PAYE for the first time can find it daunting and offers significant help to all employers.

To help parish councils who need to operate PAYE for the first time HMRC set up a team of specialist advisers on the new employer helpline 08457 143 143 who have been specially briefed to deal with their queries.

HMRC also produces a free basic PAYE tool for small employers. It contains a calculator that works out the tax due and includes the forms that the parish council would need to run its payroll throughout the year and make annual returns. It will also allow the council to file any starter and leaver forms and its annual return online and this will help mitigate its costs.

HMRC also offers free workshops at many locations covering all payroll topics.

RBS and Lloyds TSB

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate UK Financial Investments has made of the level of debt removed from the balance sheet by *(a)* RBS and *(b)* Lloyds TSB due to customer insolvency in each of the last three months. [52917]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) and the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) on an arm's length and commercial basis.

UKFI does not make estimates on the level of debt removed by investee banks but will set out a summary of LBG and RBS's performance and key financials as reported in their annual report.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on how many occasions *(a)* RBS and *(b)* Lloyds TSB have appointed insolvency practitioners in respect of small businesses since 8 May 2010; and what assessment he has made of the trends in the incidence of such procedures in the last 12 months; [52919]

(2) on how many occasions insolvency practitioners appointed by *(a)* RBS and *(b)* Lloyds TSB have sold companies as going concerns in the last 12 months. [52944]

Mr Hoban: The appointment of insolvency practitioners is a matter for the management of the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr Brine: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor to *(a)* open mail received and *(b)* take the action required on the correspondence so received was in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) the last month of each of the last five tax years. [53170]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost as HMRC does not currently hold there data.

Revenue and Customs: Performance Standards

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the length of time taken for HM Revenue and Customs to process *(a)* probate cases in England and Wales and *(b)* confirmation cases in Scotland; and if he will assess the potential effects on bereaved families of the time taken to process such cases. [53307]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is not involved in every application for a grant of probate or confirmation; the majority are dealt with via probate registries in England and Wales or the Sheriff Court in Scotland.

In the cases where HMRC is involved, where all the information relating to the application for a grant or confirmation is complete and correct, 98% are dealt with within five working days based on figures available for 2010-11.

In cases where payment of tax due has not been made or there is documentation missing HMRC prioritises the follow up contact with the personal representatives of the estate to correct the position as quickly as possible.

This work is treated as priority at all stages due to the sensitive nature of the work and the understanding that delays in issuing the grant of probate or confirmation can be distressing for the family of the deceased.

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of stamp duty land tax he estimates was collected from transactions made in Wales in each of the last five years. [53326]

Mr Gauke: The estimated stamp duty land tax (SDLT) receipts for Wales are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/menu.htm

Annual estimates from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Estimated SDLT receipts (£ million)	*Proportion of SDLT (UK) (%)*
2005-06	175	2.4
2006-07	225	2.4
2007-08	210	2.1
2008-09	115	2.4
2009-10	100	2.0

Taxation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in the UK his Department estimates have incorrect tax codes; [53177]

(2) what the cost to his Department was of issuing incorrect tax codes in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [53178]

Mr Gauke: The exact number of incorrect coding notices issued by HMRC is not known. In any year, a small percentage of tax codes will be incorrect, as the codes may not always reflect changes in an individual's circumstances. That is why HMRC send out coding notices well in advance of the start of the new tax year so that customers can review them and report any changes.

Information relating to costs for the last 12 months in respect of incorrect coding notices is not available.

Taxation: Renewable Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* community-owned renewable energy schemes and *(b)* investment in renewables of the withdrawal of enterprise investment scheme tax relief. [52931]

Justine Greening: Enterprise Investment Scheme tax relief has not been withdrawn for investments in companies engaged in community-owned renewable energy schemes or investment in renewables.

Legislation will be introduced in Finance Bill 2012 providing that companies whose trade consists wholly or substantially in the receipt of feed-in tariffs will only be eligible for the Enterprise Investment Scheme or Venture Capital Trusts where commercial electricity generation commences before 6 April 2012. The change will not apply to any shares issued before 23 March 2011.

This change is designed to improve the focus of the schemes on smaller, higher risk companies. Draft legislation will be published for consultation before it is implemented.

Taxation: Self-employment

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value was of financial penalties imposed on firms found to have incorrectly designated the status of employees in each year from 2005 to 2010; [52905]

(2) how many HM Revenue and Customs compliance reviews resulted in a change of employee status in each year from 2005 to 2010. [52906]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

Taxation: Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the solar power industry requesting meetings to discuss the solar power sector *(a)* before and *(b)* after the announcement of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement; and what such meetings Ministers in his Department had with representatives of the industry (i) before and (ii) after the CSR announcement. [52929]

Justine Greening: Spending review 2011 included wide consultation and representations were received from a range of individuals and organisations. Departmental decisions relating to the implementation of spending review settlements have similarly sought to include discussions with interested parties.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of his Department have expertise on solar power. [52930]

Justine Greening: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is the lead Department on solar energy issues. The Treasury works closely with that Department and with others inside and outside Government who have expertise in this area.

Unemployment: Young People

Alison McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projection for business planning purposes HM Revenue and Customs has made of the number of 16 to 24-year-olds in employment in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17. [51071]

Mr Gauke: For strategic purposes HMRC does not use employment forecasts by age group as they do not always prove reliable and are not critical to its planning. HMRC bases its planning on population growth, and predicted churn in the working population. It does identify the assumed population reaching working age to forecast broad numbers of NI numbers issued. Employment levels by age band are not used, as even if employment is fluctuating HMRC will continue to experience "churn" in the PAYE, tax credit and self-assessment populations, and there is no clear correlation with employment levels that we can rely on.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Anaerobic Digestion

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the anaerobic digestion (AD) biogas combined heat and power plant run by Alfagy Ltd at Hatherop; and what plans his Department has to support further AD development. [53309]

Gregory Barker: I understand from the South West Regional Development Agency, who have overseen the Hatherop AD plant, that this is an excellent project. I wish the project continued success.

In order to promote AD development more widely, DECC is supporting projects through the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme, the renewables obligation and the forthcoming renewable heat incentive. In response to low uptake of FITs for AD plants, we are currently seeking views on proposals to increase the tariffs for farm-scale AD as part of the fast-track consultation on FITs. DEFRA and DECC are also working closely with industry to draw up a joint programme of work to tackle other barriers to the deployment of AD. The aim is to publish this in an AD strategy in June.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether energy purchased from a port landlord which is subject to a climate change agreement held by a tenant is also subject to the carbon reduction commitment energy efficiency scheme; and what steps he is taking to ensure that his Department provides consistent information to port operators on this issue. [53618]

Gregory Barker: It is the policy intent of CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme that there should be no double counting of energy use under CRC and climate change agreements (CCAs). CRC allowances are therefore not required to be purchased in respect of energy used by a CCA facility, irrespective of whether the CCA is held by the landlord or tenant.

However, a landlord will need to include the energy use from a tenant's CCA facilities as part of their once per phase footprint reporting obligations.

Support and information on CRC's implementation is provided to all participants by the administrators of the scheme (the Environment Agency in England and Wales, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency). Guidance documents and details of the dedicated CRC help desk are provided on the Environment Agency's webpage at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/crc

Carbon Sequestration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether steps to promote investment in carbon capture and storage in the UK were agreed at the clean emissions ministerial meeting in Abu Dhabi; and if he will make a statement. [52973]

Gregory Barker: No actions to promote carbon capture and storage in the UK specifically were agreed at the clean energy ministerial meeting. Energy Ministers endorsed a suite of recommendations for action over the coming year to promote the global deployment of CCS, recognising the need for international cooperation to advance policies and financial mechanisms and develop regulatory frameworks for safe, long-term geologic storage of carbon dioxide. The Carbon Capture Use and Storage Action Group, led jointly by the UK and Australia, will report progress toward these recommendations at the third ministerial meeting, to be hosted in London in 2012.

Further details are available from the clean energy ministerial website:

www.cleanenergyministerial.org

Coal Fired Power Stations: Closures

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects the coal-fired power stations at *(a)* Kingsnorth, *(b)* Didcot A, *(c)* Ferrybridge and *(d)* Tilbury to close. [53753]

Charles Hendry: The coal-fired power stations at Kingsnorth, Didcot A, Tilbury and two units of Ferrybridge C have opted to take a limited lifetime derogation under the large combustion plant directive. This allows them to run up to 20,000 hours between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2015. This capacity is therefore due to close by the end of 2015. Subject to permitting conditions, it is for the operators to decide how to make use of their 20,000 hours.

Departmental Procurement

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals for a standard ISO 9000 qualification for small and medium-sized enterprises seeking contracts from his Department or its contractors for work on nuclear projects. [53664]

Charles Hendry: The Government's role is to create the right conditions for investment by the private sector in new nuclear power stations and it will be energy companies, not the Government, who will build and operate them.

The legal responsibility to make and implement adequate quality assurance arrangements in respect of all matters which may affect safety falls on site licensee companies. This responsibility includes setting out the quality assurance arrangements for their supply chain including the accreditations that might be required by specific companies with specific roles.

We continue to work with the nuclear industry to increase the UK supply chain's understanding of quality assurance requirements and to further develop its capability and competitiveness through initiatives such as the Nuclear Industry Association's sc@nuclear programme, the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, the Manufacturing Advisory Service and through national and local engagement events held by EDF and other major suppliers.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the cost of ISO and Nuclear Standards certification required to meet pre-qualification requirements for contracts with his Department or its contractors. [53665]

Charles Hendry: I have not received any representations on the cost of ISO and Nuclear Standards certification as the Department is not responsible for procuring or letting contracts to build new nuclear power stations.

The Government's role is to create the right conditions for investment by the private sector in new nuclear power stations and it will be energy companies, not the Government, who will build and operate them.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52814]

Gregory Barker: There is no direct advice on these topics on the DECC's external website. Managers have authority to offer work as an intern: DECC does not have an intern scheme, so normal short-term contracts would be used and normal recruitment processes and authority levels apply.

Managers also have authority to offer individuals the opportunity to undertake a work experience placement, subject to authority limits. Internal guidance is available for managers who offer these placements.

DECC does not have a policy of allowing people to work as volunteers in the Department.

Electricity Generation: Costs

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the levelised cost of each electricity generating technology; and what modelling assumptions were made in reaching this figure. [52834]

Charles Hendry: The tables are taken from Mott MacDonald (2010) and give levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build plants in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, including both fossil fuel and low carbon plant, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices.

It should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the tables only give either 'FOAK' (first-of-a-kind) prices or 'NOAK' (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology. NOAK is given for established technologies and FOAK for those technologies which are yet to be built in the UK or benefit from learning. These are appropriate comparators for current costs.

The full report including methodology and assumptions can be accessed via this link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

Table 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CC GT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS (FOAK)*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC with CCS (FOAK)*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind (FOAK)*	*Offshore wind R3 (FOAK)*	*Nuclear PWR (FOAK)*
Capital Costs	12.4	29.8	33.4	74.1	61.7	82.0	79.2	124.1	144.6	77.3
Fixed operating costs	3.7	7.7	8.6	18.6	9.7	17.7	14.6	36.7	45.8	12.2
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	4.7	3.4	4.6	—	—	—	2.1
Fuel Costs	46.9	65.0	19.9	28.7	20.3	28.3	—	—	—	5.3
Carbon Costs	15.1	2.1	40.3	6.5	39.6	5.5	—	—	—	—

Table 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CC GT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS (FOAK)*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC with CCS (FOAK)*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind (FOAK)*	*Offshore wind R3 (FOAK)*	*Nuclear PWR (FOAK)*
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	4.3	—	9.6	—	9.5	—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	80.3	112.5	104.5	142.1	134.6	147.6	93.9	160.9	190.5	99.0

Source:
Matt MacDonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers, meaning that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

In the year 2017, assuming that all technologies have been built at least once in the UK, the following NOAK costs may apply to all technologies, however, it should be noted that these costs are not considered achievable today.

Table 2: 10% discount rate, 2017 start at projected EPC prices, all NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS*	*Coal IGCC*	*Coal IGCC with CCS*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind*	*Offshore wind R3*	*Nuclear PWR*
Capital Costs	11.2	20.7	28.7	47.8	33.7	46.5	71.7	89.4	97.0	49.6
Fixed operating costs	3.7	6.0	8.6	13.8	8.0	12.3	—	23.0	30.9	9.1
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	3.7	2.7	3.6	—	—	—	1.8
Fuel Costs	49.8	64.7	19.9	27.6	19.6	27.2	—	—	—	5.2
Carbon Costs	29.6	4.1	73.8	11.4	72.0	10.0	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	3.5	—	7.6	—	7.5	—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	96.5	102.6	133.2	111.9	136.0	107.1	86.3	112.4	127.9	67.8

Source:
Matt Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

Electricity: Prices

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence (i) he and (ii) his officials have had on those parts of RIIO-T1 which relate to visual amenity in electricity connection and transmission schemes. [52711]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for the next transmission price control (RIIO-T1). The Department's input on visual amenity has been through official level engagement with Ofgem and other stakeholders, involving discussions, correspondence and participation at stakeholder events such as the Price Control Review Forum and RIIO Working Groups.

Energy: Developing Countries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last discussed the UK's objectives for the World Bank energy strategy review with the Secretary of State for International Development. [52888]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State meets with the Secretary of State for International Development on a regular basis. Although they have not met specifically to discuss the World Bank energy strategy review, officials from both Departments meet regularly and discuss the review. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change is in contact with officials on the key issues relating to this process.

DFID officials have also been in regular contact with the World Bank throughout the process to feed in UK views. They have emphasised the need for the World Bank to take full account of all the relevant issues concerning use of renewable energy versus fossil fuels in developing countries, and to have greater consideration for the vulnerability of natural resources and energy assets in developing countries. The UK has also emphasised the importance of strengthening the World Bank's role in supporting developing country planning capacity for low carbon, climate resilient growth.

Energy: Housing

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects on a property's value of a Green Deal finance package. [53835]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment for the Energy Bill considered the impact of energy efficiency measures on house prices, and is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/energy_bill/energy_bill.aspx

It noted that, in principle, in a well functioning market the property price should change to reflect at least the expected bill savings. There is some evidence from Australia and the USA that identified increases in some property values as a result of energy efficiency improvements. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors notes that:

> "there are some promising early signs that a value differential is emerging for energy efficient buildings in the commercial sector in the US, which allows some optimism that it is possible for property markets to change to reflect energy efficiency."

Currently, no empirical data set is available to assess the potential effects of a Green Deal finance package on a property's value in the UK.

Hinkley Point Power Stations

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to increase the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises in the South West able to bid for contracts at Hinkley Point power station. [53666]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to developing the capability and competitiveness of the UK supply chain and are already taking steps to achieve this through initiatives such as the Nuclear Industry Association's sc@nuclear programme which is focused on engaging with SMEs.

This and other initiatives such as the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and the Manufacturing Advisory Service are open to companies in the south-west as well as nationwide and are intended to put UK suppliers in the best possible position to compete for the opportunities that would be created by a new nuclear build programme.

As part of all of this EDF has been working with the local community in the sout-west and has set up a website with the Somerset Chambers of Commerce and Industry Ltd where local companies can get more information on the opportunities at the proposed site at Hinkley Point and can register as contractors (for work which is directly related to construction at Hinkley Point or associated development) or indirect service suppliers (for services to EDF Energy and main contractors that are not directly related to on site activity such as taxi firms, accommodation providers, office supplies, local retailers etc).

EDF has also invested £3 million in the Energy Skills Centre at Bridgwater college to help secure skilled jobs for local people on its project and plans to invest a further £1.5 million to establish a construction skills training centre at Bridgwater college, in partnership with the college. Other projects include an investment of £1.6 million in West Somerset Community college to support training in specific skills that will help people into employment on Hinkley Point and create an apprenticeship hub.

We will continue to encourage EDF and other prospective licensees to engage with the UK and local supply chains to ensure that UK companies have the opportunity to compete for the benefits presented by nuclear new build in the UK and overseas.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanism he has put in place to provide for independent monitoring of the effect of low-level radiation from nuclear energy generation *(a)* on land and *(b)* in the marine environment. [53023]

Charles Hendry: The Environment Agencies (the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency), together with the Food Standards Agency, undertake independent monitoring programmes for radioactivity in the terrestrial and aquatic environments around nuclear installations in the UK. DEFRA, via the Environment Agencies, also funds seven extremely sensitive monitors for radioactivity in air, located across the UK, as our contribution to the Euratom monitoring programme.

The results of these programmes are published annually in the "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment" report series. The latest report can be found at:

http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO1010BTCY-e-e.pdf

RIMNET is the UK's nuclear radiation monitoring and nuclear emergency response system, established in 1988, and operated on behalf of DECC by the Met Office. It includes 95 monitors stationed across the UK to detect increases in background levels of radiation. Any evidence of a nuclear incident abroad, of radiological significance for the UK, would result in a national alert being raised.

Additionally, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) carries out gamma spectrometry tests on samples collected from around the UK, including sites in Glasgow and Oxfordshire.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on *(a)* nuclear energy and *(b)* other aspects of energy policy. [53025]

Charles Hendry: The Prime Minister discussed the response to the events in Fukushima with other Heads of Government/Heads of State at the European Council on 24/25 March. Following that, DECC officials have been working closely with other governments, regulators and the Commission in developing the criteria for stress tests for nuclear installations.

I met Commissioner Oettinger on 10 February to discuss a range of issues including the Energy 2020 strategy. I also attended the Energy Council on 28 February where energy efficiency, renewable energy and the Internal Energy Market were discussed. I have discussed a wide range of EU energy issues, including nuclear, with my European counterparts at the Informal Energy Council on 2/3 May.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he plans to extend nuclear power station emergency evacuation zones; [53055]

(2) what plans he has for the future size of emergency evacuation zones for nuclear power stations in the UK. [53198]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* There are no plans at present to make changes to the emergency evacuation zones surrounding nuclear power stations. A review of DEPZs may be considered following publication of the Mike Weightman report.

Radioactive Waste

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what quantities of operational *(a)* low, *(b)* intermediate and *(c)* high level nuclear waste have been created to date as a result of the UK's civil nuclear power programme; and what assessment he has made of the volumes of decommissioning waste that will be created from (i) the existing nuclear programme and (ii) any future new build programme. [53689]

Charles Hendry: The United Kingdom Radioactive Waste Inventory is currently updated every three years with the most recent update published on 22 March 2011. The inventory describes the stocks of radioactive waste and radioactive materials held in the UK at 1 April 2010 as well as those that are predicted to arise from the operation and decommissioning of current facilities in the future.

The inventory includes wastes produced from a number of programmes including the generation of electricity in nuclear power stations, the associated production and processing of nuclear fuel, the use of radioactive materials in industry, medicine and research, and from some military nuclear programmes. The following table sets out the waste volumes resulting from these programmes, stored in the UK at 1 April 2010, as well as estimated arisings from current facilities in the future. The table does not include waste which has already been disposed of. Further information is available in the inventory reports available at:

www.nda.gov.uk/ukinventory/

	Stored waste at 1 April 2010 (m^3)	*Future arisings (m^3)*	*Total (m^3)*
Low Level Waste (LLW)	66,000	4,360,000	4,430,000
Intermediate Level Waste (ILW)	94,300	192,000	287,000
High Level Waste (HLW)	1,620	-601	1,020
Total	162,000	4,550,000	4,720,000

Notes

1. Future arisings of HLW have negative volumes. This is because Sellafield has reported future arisings of HLW to show that the volume of accumulated waste (liquid plus vitrified product) will fall as liquid waste existing at 1.4.2010 and forecast in the future is conditioned to a vitrified product.
2. HL W is the product of reprocessing the spent fuel from current reactors.

The amount of radioactive waste that would arise as a result of a future new build programme would depend on such issues as the number and the type of reactors. Based on an assumption of a new build fleet comprised of four AP 1000 reactors and four EPR reactors operating for 60 years and generating 10GW, disposability assessments undertaken by NDA suggest that the estimated amount of intermediate level waste could be of the order of 25,000 cubic meters and an estimated amount of spent fuel of about 20,000 cubic meters. Based on the same assumptions, the low level waste management company, LLW Repository Ltd, has estimated that approximately 80,000 cubic meters of LLW might be produced.

Renewable Energy

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of energy generation came from *(a)* wind, *(b)* solar, *(c)* biomass, *(d)* tidal, *(e)* hydropower and *(f)* biofuels in the last year for which figures are available. [53924]

Charles Hendry: The following table gives the proportion of UK electricity generated and UK energy demand from the specified sources.

Fuel	*Electricity[1] (%)*	*Primary energy supply[2] [3] (%)*
Wind	2.6	0.5
Solar[4]	—	—
Biomass[5]	3.1	[6]2.1
Tidal[4]	—	—
Hydropower	0.9	0.2
Biofuels	—	[7]0.5
Total renewable	6.6	3.1

[1] 2010 provisional.

[2] 2009.

[3] 2010 data for total energy will be available at the end of July in DUKES 2011.

[4] Solar and tidal generation contributes less than 0.01%.

[5] Includes co-firing, non-biodegradable waste is excluded.

[6] Includes biomass used for heat.

[7] biofuels used in transport.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what model his Department used to calculate the cost to the Exchequer of the Feed-in Tariff scheme for the purposes of the comprehensive spending review. [52832]

Gregory Barker: The projected costs of Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) that informed the spending review were those modelled for the FITs Impact Assessment that was published by the previous administration in February 2010. The model was developed on behalf of the Department by consultants. The Impact Assessment, together with a qualitative and quantitative report produced by the consultants, sets out the modelling methodology used. These reports are available from the Department's website.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the likely change in the number of jobs as a result of the proposed changes to the Feed-in Tariff scheme. [52833]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold this information at present, but we will be looking at issues of this kind as part of the comprehensive review of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* investor confidence and *(b)* risk perception of proposed changes to the feed-in tariff scheme; and what steps his Department is taking to minimise any negative consequences for renewables investment beyond the solar sector. [52933]

Gregory Barker: A key objective for the feed-in tariffs review is to provide industry with transparency, longevity and certainty to enable sustainable growth. The fast-track consultation reflects this, firstly through proposals to address the risk of larger solar photovoltaic installations distorting funding for other smaller and domestic scale installations as well as other technologies, and secondly through proposals to address the disappointing uptake of farm-scale anaerobic digestion plants to date.

The coalition remains committed to increasing the levels of renewable energy deployment in line with meeting the target for renewable energy set by the 2009 EU renewable energy directive. We are working to remove financial and non-financial barriers to deployment of all renewables and will be publishing a renewables roadmap by summer recess. This will clearly identify how the 2020 renewables target will be achieved, and will give clarity to markets of what will be required, helping to provide greater certainty to investors and the developers of new technology.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if his Department will put in place transitional arrangements to minimise financial disadvantage to investors and project developers as a result of proposed changes to the feed-in tariff scheme; [52934]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of financial loss in the solar power sector as a result of proposed new feed-in tariff rates coming into effect on 1 August 2011. [52972]

Gregory Barker: We are currently consulting on proposals to reduce feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations of more than 50kW. The consultation seeks views on the proposed timing of the change in tariffs. We will consider all views expressed as part of the consultation in finalising the policy and will confirm the outcome in due course.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to offer compensation to individuals, community schemes and companies who may be financially disadvantaged as a result of proposed changes to the feed-in tariff scheme. [52935]

Gregory Barker: We are currently consulting on proposals to reduce feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations of more than 50kW. We will consider all views expressed as part of the consultation in finalising the policy and will confirm the outcome in due course.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the benefits to community interest companies and local charities from continuing the feed-in tariff for solar energy at its present rate. [53827]

Gregory Barker: One of the aims of the fast-track review of feed-in tariffs is to rebalance the scheme back to its original purpose of encouraging deployment of additional small-scale low-carbon electricity generation by those who have not traditionally participated in the electricity market, including community groups and charities.

Faster than anticipated reductions in the cost of solar photovoltaics (PV) mean that it does not need as much subsidy to be competitive. Under the proposed new tariffs for solar PV installations between 50kW and 250kW, community based projects should continue to benefit from the scheme but at a lower rate. We are currently consulting on these proposed new tariffs and will consider all views expressed, including any from community groups and charities, in finalising the policy. We will also be consulting on wider aspects of the scheme through the comprehensive review.

Solar Power: Finance

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on the provision of renewable energy grants for those parts of the UK with suitable conditions for solar photovoltaic farms. [52786]

Gregory Barker: No such representations have been received. However, a number of representations have separately been received in response to proposals to reduce feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaic installations above 50 kW. These proposals are set out in the FITs fast-track review consultation which closes on Friday 6 May.

Warm Front Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the potential number of jobs lost as a result of the reduction in funding for the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [53834]

Gregory Barker: Estimated job losses are a matter for the Warm Front contractors and their subcontractors. We expect contractors to continue to utilise the job opportunities that a number of other schemes provide; these include the carbon emissions reduction target extension, the Community Energy Saving Programme, feed-in tariffs and the renewable heat incentive.

EDUCATION

Children's Centres

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the national children's play strategy. [53014]

Sarah Teather: The Government recognise how important it is that children have safe, free local places to play, and the benefits these places bring to the wider community more generally. However, it is not for central Government to determine what play facilities are available in local areas, or to tell the experts in the play sector how to deliver play provision. Children, parents, play professionals and local communities best know what is most needed in their local areas.

The play capital programme finished at the end of March 2011, as originally intended under the previous administration's Play Strategy. The Government are giving councils more freedom over how they spend their money, giving communities more control over developments in their neighbourhoods, and making it easier for volunteers and charities to get involved. This should provide the opportunities for committed people and local groups to continue to influence play provision in their areas, leaving responsibility for play provision where it belongs: with local areas and their communities.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on proposals to widen the class of place in which abortions are permitted to take place. [52887]

Anne Milton: There are no plans to use the provision under section 1 (3A) of the Abortion Act 1967 to widen the class of place in which abortions are permitted to take place.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many abortions on the grounds of rectifiable disabilities were performed after 24 weeks' gestation in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [53009]

(2) how many abortions there were at *(a)* 26 weeks and *(b)* each week after the 26th in each category of grounds for termination in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [53010]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of abortions that are 24 weeks and over by principal medical condition, if performed under section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act, has been placed in the Library. Abortions performed under this section are those where

> 'there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped'.

Medical conditions recorded under section 1(1)(d) are coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (10th edition) published by the World Health Organisation. This classification does not split diseases and related health problems into those that are rectifiable and those that are not.

Information on the number of abortions at 26 weeks and each week after the 26th can be found in the following table for the periods 2003 to 2005 and 2006 to 2008. The figures for individual years are too small to be released. For the periods 2003 to 2005 and 2006 to 2008, the total abortions performed under grounds other than E, for abortions at 26 weeks and over, was less than 10 (between 0 and 9).

Number of abortions by gestations at 26 weeks and over, 2003-08

	Three year total	
Gestation weeks	*2003-05*	*2006-08*
26	52	45
27	21	31
28	25	24
29	20	26
30	11	22
31	15	12
32	17	30
33	12	14
34	15	12
35 and over	19	25
Total	207	241

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people being treated for alcohol addiction in each primary care trust are enrolled in *(a)* self help groups, *(b)* 12-step facilitation therapy, *(c)* cognitive behavioural therapy and *(d)* family therapy. [52444]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally.

Anti-depressants

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Newham and *(c)* West Ham constituency were prescribed anti-depressant medication in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011 to date. [52666]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of people prescribed a medicine is not collected. The table shows prescription items prescribed in primary care in England and in Newham Primary Care Trust (PCT). This information is not available at constituency level.

Anti-depressant[1] prescription items prescribed in primary care in England and Newham PCT areas

Thousand

	Prescription items England	*Prescription items Newham PCT*
2008	35,612.5	96.4
2009	38,779.6	109.0
2010	42,437.7	120.2
2011 (January-February)	7,119.0	20.8

[1] Anti-depressant medication has been defined as those products included in British National Formulary Chapter 4.3—anti depressant drugs.

Source:

Prescribing Analysis and Cost tool

Bowel Cancer: Health Education

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to provide information to the public on the signs and symptoms of bowel cancer. [53237]

Paul Burstow: We launched pilots for the first ever national public awareness campaign for bowel cancer in January 2011. The 'Be Clear on Cancer' campaign was piloted in the east of England and in the south-west of England. It ran for seven weeks to raise awareness of the key signs and symptoms of bowel cancer and to encourage people with these symptoms to go to their general practitioners. The campaign ended on 18 March 2011 and, subject to evaluation and lessons learned, it will be rolled out nationwide.

Information on the signs and symptoms of bowel cancer is included with every invitation to take part in the NHS bowel cancer screening programme. Three million men and women aged 60 to 69 are invited to participate in screening every two years, and the programme is currently being extended to men and women aged up to 75.

The Department has worked with health professionals, patient groups and the voluntary sector to produce key messages for bowel cancer. These are available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer-of-the-colon-rectum-or-bowel/pages/keymessages.aspx

The Department encourages charities and other stakeholders to use them widely in awareness raising activities.

Cancer

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has plans to support the development of holistic needs assessments and care planning for cancer patients to take account of individual needs related to *(a)* age, *(b)* gender, *(c)* ethnicity, *(d)* educational attainment, *(e)* disability, *(f)* sexual orientation and *(g)* socio-economic group; and if he will make a statement. [53354]

Paul Burstow: All people with long-term conditions, including those with cancer should have their needs assessed and be offered personalised care planning. This should be tailored to their specific needs and circumstance, taking account of age, gender, ethnic and cultural background, educational attainment, disability, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and mental health. The Government are committed to a patient-led national health service, strengthening the patient's choice and management of their own care. Proactive, preventive and personalised care planning with a focus on shared decision making fully supports these aims and will continue to be supported.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to *(a)* maintain and *(b)* improve standards of local authority-run care homes. [53637]

Paul Burstow: Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 providers of care homes must be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and meet a set of essential requirements of safety and quality.

Failure to comply with the requirements is an offence, and CQC has a wide range of enforcement powers that it can use if the provider is not compliant.

The Care Quality Commission will shortly be consulting on the details of a new "Excellence" award for adult social care providers. This will enable the best care providers to gain recognition and will encourage others to go beyond the essential standards to deliver truly excellent care.

CJD

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many cases the presence of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease has been evident in biopsies carried out following the death of a patient with haemophilia in the last 20 years. [52333]

Anne Milton: Abnormal prion protein associated with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease has been found in a single spleen sample taken from one haemophilia patient at post mortem. Details can be found in "Peden A, McCardle L, Head MW et al. Variant CJD infection in the spleen of a neurologically asymptomatic UK adult patient with haemophilia." Haemophilia 2010; 16: 296-304. The journal Haemophilia is available on line at:

www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=1351-8216

Dementia: Health Education

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a public health campaign to provide information for the public on the links between lifestyle and risk of dementia. [53255]

Paul Burstow: The Government have recently undertaken a public awareness campaign on dementia, aimed at raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of dementia and urging people to seek an early diagnosis if they are concerned. The campaign was piloted in the north-west and Yorkshire and the Humber national health service regions, and it may be rolled out across the country once fully evaluated. There are no current plans to undertake a campaign focussed specifically on the links between lifestyle and dementia. However, guidance produced by the Department, including the National Dementia Strategy 2009, emphasises the links between lifestyle and dementia, and that what is good for your heart is good for your head.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53809]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department owns two freehold properties, Richmond house and Wellington house. Address and valuation details are as follows. Valuation figures are for land and property combined.

Richmond house, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS is valued at £77 million.

Wellington house, 133-155 Waterloo road, London SE1 8UG is valued at £42.5 million.

Diamorphine

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria an addict has to meet to be prescribed diamorphine by the NHS. [53593]

Anne Milton: Only those doctors licensed by the Home Office for this purpose can prescribe diamorphine to treat opioid addiction.

Eligibility criteria for the use of diamorphine are set out in expert consensus guidance: 'Injectable heroin (and injectable methadone)—Potential roles in drug treatment'.

A copy has been placed in the Library and is also available at the National Treatment Agency for substance misuse website at:

www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/nta_injectable_heroin_and_methadone_2003_summary.pdf

Fluoride

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to strategic health authorities on the factors to take into account in determining whether to use fluoride in the local water supply. [53621]

Anne Milton: The Chief Dental Officer's letter 'Fluoridation of Drinking Water', issued in February 2008 under Gateway reference 9361, refers to that matter. A copy has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_082666

The Health and Social Care Bill proposes that responsibility for consultations on proposals for fluoridation schemes should transfer to local authorities, in which case we will issue revised guidance on the conduct of consultations and taking account of public opinion.

Health and Social Care Bill

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations he has received on the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill from hon. Members representing constituencies in Scotland and Wales. [52417]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table sets out numbers of representations on the Health and Social Care Bill to the Department from hon. Members representing Scottish and Welsh constituencies.

Hon. Members by constituency:	*Letters*	*Parliamentary questions*
Scotland	3	16
Wales	5	12

Limb Reduction Deformity: Babies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born with limb reduction deformity in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [52325]

Anne Milton: The following table provides the number of live and stillbirths notified to the National Congenital Anomaly System for England and Wales (NCAS) with a mention of limb reduction defects for each year between 1999 and 2008 (the last year available). The number of notifications received by NCAS is likely to be less than the actual number of infants born with an anomaly.

Number of notifications to the NCAS with a mention of limb reduction deformity[1], 1999-2008, England and Wales

		Registrations		
		Limb reduction deformity (divided into register and non-register areas)[3]		
	Percentage of births covered by a local register[2]	*Register*	*Non-register*	*Total*
1999	14	57	153	210
2000	27	77	130	207
2001	26	81	111	192
2002	33	82	100	182
2003	41	126	78	204
2004	44	162	61	223
2005	44	140	44	184
2006[4]	46	126	54	180
2007[4, 5]	46	108	44	152
2008[4, 5]	37	63	34	97

[1] The table includes notifications coded to Q71 to Q73 using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (ICD-10). Figures are based on data on NCAS on 20 October 2009.

[2] Births to women resident in England and Wales.

[3] Recording of congenital anomalies was more complete in areas with a local register because the register can obtain additional information. Consequently, the figures provided are presented separately for areas where a local register operated and for areas without a register in a particular year.

[4] Figures for 2006 onwards exclude data for some areas that used to be part of East Midlands and South Yorkshire congenital anomaly register.

[5] The North Thames (West) register ceased sending records to NCAS in September 2007 so the figures for 2007 and 2008 are an underestimate.

Source:

Office for National Statistics.

Mental Health Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the commissioning of *(a)* high security, *(b)* medium security, *(c)* low security and *(d)* community forensic mental health services by GP consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board. [52859]

Paul Burstow: The Health and Social Care Bill, which was presented to Parliament on 19 January 2011, completed its Committee Stage on 31 March. Clause 12 of the Health and Social Care Bill (subject to parliamentary approval) amends the National Health Services Act 2006 to remove from the Secretary of State the duty to provide high secure mental health services and places a duty instead on the National Health Service Commissioning Board to arrange for the provision of these services. The Secretary of State informed the House of Commons on 4 April that the Department is taking the opportunity of a natural break in the passage of the Bill to pause, listen, and engage with all those who want the NHS to succeed, and subsequently to bring forward amendments to improve the Bill further.

Following on from this, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State launched an engagement exercise on 6 April. To oversee the NHS listening exercise, the Department has brought together the NHS Future Forum, a group of patient representatives, clinicians and others from the health field, including frontline staff, to drive the process of engagement with staff, patients and communities. Further information about the NHS Future Forum and the listening exercise is available on the website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare

People who wish to get involved can read more about the listening exercise and leave comments publicly on the website. By June, Ministers will decide how to take forward the Bill in a way that reflects what has been heard. Following this, decisions about the commissioning of secure and community forensic mental health services in the new NHS will be made.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve access to psychological therapies. [52987]

Paul Burstow: The Improving Access to Psychological Therapy programme (IAPT) continues to offer increasing numbers of people in England access to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved therapy for mental health conditions. We will invest £400 million in the next four years to ensure the full roll-out of IAPT. We expect this will mean that between April 2011 and the end of the spending review period:

3.2 million people will access IAPT, receiving guided self help or therapy;

2.6 million of them will complete a course of therapy treatment; and

up to 1.3 million (50% of those treated) will move to measurable recovery.

This investment is in addition to the funding primary care trusts have already received for talking therapies.

Mental Health Services: Waiting Lists

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate has been made of average waiting times for cognitive behavioural therapy in NHS facilities in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the rest of the country. [53263]

Paul Burstow: In Suffolk, based on Improving Access to Psychological Therapy programme (IAPT) referrals for March 2011, the average waiting time from referral to treatment for guided self-help is six days. The average wait for high intensity cognitive behavioural therapy is seven days.

At present, we do not measure the average waiting time nationally, however, we will be in a position to measure the average waiting time once the IAPT Data Standard comes into use in April 2012.

Midwives: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 680W, on midwives, whether the figures provided in the answer include management staff. [53176]

Anne Milton: The answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 680W, was based on the number of full-time equivalent registered midwives working in the national health service and did not include managers.

Muscular Dystrophy

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the NHS East of England Specialised Commissioning Group in recruiting and appointing three neuromuscular care advisors for the region; and if he will make a statement. [53639]

Paul Burstow: We have been advised by the East of England Strategic Health Authority that the East of England Specialised Commissioning Group is working with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign to confirm arrangements for the recruitment of three East of England Neuro-muscular Care Pathway Co-ordinators. The East of England Specialised Commissioning Group expects to advertise the posts during May.

Neurological Conditions: Health Services

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to implement the quality requirements set out in the National Services Framework for Long Term Neurological Conditions. [52946]

Paul Burstow: The White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" places outcomes at the heart of health policy and this fits well with the aspirations of the national service framework for long-term conditions (the NSF). The NSF focused on achieving a better experience and better outcomes for those with a long-term condition but did not prescribe the processes by which this should be achieved. Delivery was left by the last Government to the national health service to resolve locally.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, general practitioner (GP) led commissioning consortia will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of NHS services. GPs, in partnership with other local health care professionals such as therapists and community nurses, are best placed to understand the health needs of local populations and how to work with their local populations—including patient-led organisations such as the Neurological Alliance's Commissioning Support organisation, and other service users—to design services that meet those needs.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for assessment of the performance of GP consortia. The board will draw on the national outcome goals in the NHS outcomes framework to develop a new commissioning outcomes framework. Measures from the commissioning outcomes framework will be used by the board to hold GP consortia to account for the quality of services they commission and the health outcomes they achieve for patients.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were recorded as having an acquired brain injury in each of the last six years; [52948]

(2) how many people suffered a traumatic brain injury in each of the last six years; and how many of those received post acute care; [52949]

(3) who will be responsible for commissioning specialist brain injury rehabilitation services under his proposals for the reorganisation of the NHS. [52950]

Paul Burstow: Brain injury rehabilitation services are classed as a specialised service, and are currently commissioned by 10 regional groups. The Health and Social Care Bill sets out our intention that specialised services will be commissioned in the future by the NHS Commissioning Board.

Information on the number of people recorded as having a traumatic brain injury in each of the last six years is not collected centrally.

All those who suffered a traumatic brain injury will have received some form of post-acute care.

Neuromuscular Services: South East England

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the NHS South East Coast Specialised Commissioning Group on recruiting and appointing a neuromuscular care advisor for the region; and if he will make a statement. [52992]

Paul Burstow: We have been advised by the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority that the South East Coast Specialised Commissioning Group is working with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign to confirm arrangements for the recruitment of a South East Coast Neuro-muscular Care Pathway Co-ordinator. The post will be advertised with a view to a suitable candidate commencing the role by the end of summer 2011.

NHS Blood and Transplant

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what in-house functions his Department is assessing as part of the review of NHS Blood and Transplant; whether members of the public are able to monitor progress in the review; and if he will take steps to ensure that private companies are able to tender to deliver any services that the review concludes should be outsourced. [53308]

Anne Milton: The review is examining NHS Blood and Transplant's (NHSBT's) non-donor facing activities such as information technology, estates, testing, processing and logistics, to help NHSBT further improve the efficiency of its operations. The review is currently a work in progress and there are no plans to report publicly on the interim stages of the process. A final report will come to Ministers for their consideration in the summer.

If, in the future, NHSBT chooses to hold a competitive tendering exercise for work that assists it in carrying out its functions, that will be a matter for NHSBT. Any public procurement has to follow the good practice of having an open and competitive process.

NHSBT will remain in the public sector and remain accountable to the Secretary of State for Health for all of its functions.

NHS: Drugs

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the *(a)* National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and *(b)* Advisory Group for National Specialist Services to develop a separate appraisal mechanism for orphan and ultra-orphan drugs; [53258]

(2) what powers he has to direct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to *(a)* adapt existing and *(b)* adopt new appraisal mechanisms. [53259]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no plans to ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) or the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS) to develop separate appraisal mechanisms to appraise orphan and ultra-orphan drugs.

The vast majority of new drugs and significant licence extensions are considered through the topic selection process for NICE's technology appraisal programme. If NICE considers that by undertaking an appraisal it would not be able to add value, then for high cost, low volume drugs for very rare conditions, NICE can send the technology to AGNSS for assessment for possible inclusion in the arrangements for national specialised commissioning.

Under section 8 of the National Health Service Act 2006, the Secretary of State for Health can direct NICE as he deems necessary. However, Ministers are clear that NICE is an independent body and must be free to develop its own technology appraisal processes and methods.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has considered piloting his proposed NHS reforms in one or more geographical areas. [52381]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's proposals for modernising the national health service consist of several different, mutually-reinforcing policies, which it would not be possible to test together as a formal pilot scheme. However, in response to consultation on the NHS White Paper, we have set up a pathfinder programme for emerging general practitioner consortia, and invited early implementers to explore the development of health and well-being boards in local authorities. There are now pathfinder groups covering nearly 90% of the country, and 90% of local authorities have come forward to be early implementers. In addition, the changes are being phased carefully over four years, allowing time to plan, test and learn.

In the meantime, we have announced a pause in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, to engage further on our proposals with staff, patients and the public.

Nurses: Manpower

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the change in the number of qualified nursing jobs in the NHS to 2015. [52991]

Anne Milton: It is not possible to estimate the change in the number of qualified nursing jobs in the national health service to 2015. This will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

At present, it is the responsibility of local NHS organisations to plan and deliver a work force appropriate to the needs of their local population, based on clinical need and sound evidence.

We are investing £11.5 billion extra in the NHS over the next four years, a sign of our commitment to protecting frontline services, but we also need to be more efficient and those efficiency savings will also be ploughed back into the frontline.

Pesticides: Poisoning

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the incidence of pesticide poisoning was per 100,000 population in each region in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [52323]

(2) how many UK citizens were diagnosed with pesticide poisoning in each of the last 10 years. [52332]

Anne Milton: This information is not available. Data on the incidence or diagnosis of pesticide poisoning are not available for the United Kingdom or by region.

Prosthetics

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on all prosthetic treatment in 2009-10. [52710]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally.

Funding for prosthetic care and services is provided within the national health service budget and allocated through local determination by individual primary care trusts.

Surgery: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has taken account of the potential travel times to children's heart surgery units in determining the number and location of such units; [52719]

(2) when he expects to publish the favoured reconfiguration option for children's heart surgery units; and what processes will be gone through before he makes his decision. [52720]

Mr Simon Burns: The "Safe and Sustainable" review of children's heart services in England is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. We have however, been following its progress.

The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) has been established as the formal body to undertake the consultation on the "Safe and Sustainable" review and to take the decision on the best reconfiguration option after analysis of the review responses.

A number of key criteria were taken into account when determining the options on number and location of children's heart surgery units, which are currently out to consultation. These included travel times. The pre-consultation business case sets out details of the travel time analysis for all of the options. More information is at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/library/30/Safe_and_Sustainable_Review_of_Childrens_Congenital_Cardiac_Services_in_England_Pre_Consultation_Business_Case_1.pdf

No decision has yet been made on the number and locations of children's heart surgery units. The proposed options for children's heart surgery units are currently being consulted on. The consultation concludes on 1 July 2011 and includes a number of public consultation events across England and Wales as well as focused events with relevant professional associations.

The JCPCT will consider an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from overview and scrutiny committees, and a health impact assessment. The JCPCT is expected to make a decision in the autumn of 2011 and this will be published shortly afterwards.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts takes into account co-location capabilities in its consultation on the future of children's heart units. [53235]

Mr Simon Burns: The 'Safe and Sustainable' review of children's heart services in England is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. We have however been following its progress.

Co-location capabilities will be taken into account by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts in the consultation on the future of children's heart units.

Sir Ian Kennedy and his panel assessed the units against a number of service standards which included consideration of co-location. His findings and recommendations, including those on the extent to which the units meet the co-location requirements, have been considered by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts in its deliberations. Sir Ian's full report is in the public domain and is available on the NHS Specialised Services website at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safeandsustainable

Tattooing

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will (1) examine the *(a)* use of new tattoo removal products, including E-raze and *(b)* potential health effects of the use of such products; and if he will make a statement; [52768]

(2) consider the merits of measures to control the use of tattoo removal products; and if he will make a statement. [52770]

Anne Milton: The Health and Safety Executive has published information and advice for local authorities on tattoo removal by chemical methods, in Local Authority Circular 14/1(Micro-pigmentation, semi-permanent tattooing and semi-permanent make-up), a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Health and safety at work legislation applies to the use of such products, and we have no current plans to introduce additional measures to control their use.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of offering free immunization against hepatitis B to workers in the tattooing and piercing industries; and if he will make a statement. [52769]

Anne Milton: Hepatitis B immunization is recommended by the Health and Safety Executive for individuals carrying out cosmetic piercing or tattooing because of the occupational risk of infection. The principle of immunizations required for occupational reasons not being provided free by the national health service for non-NHS workers, is well established, and we see no reason to make an exception in this case.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of regulation of the sale of tattooing and body piercing equipment on auction websites; and if he will make a statement. [52771]

Anne Milton: We have no current plans to introduce specific legislation to regulate the sale of tattooing or cosmetic piercing equipment.

Tattooing and cosmetic piercing businesses are regulated by local authorities, which have powers to require them to be registered and observe local byelaws relating to cleanliness and hygienic practice. It is a criminal offence for such businesses to trade if they are not registered with the local authority or to breach local byelaws. Local authorities also have general enforcement powers relating to such businesses under health and safety at work legislation.

Legislation relating to general product safety is relevant to sales of tattooing or cosmetic piercing equipment to the public.

Tobacco: Industry

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to ensure that organisations who engage with his Department on tobacco control which are linked to or receive funding from *(a)* the pharmaceutical industry and *(b)* the public purse disclose any links with or funding received from the tobacco industry. [53005]

Anne Milton: In March 2011, the Government published 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A tobacco control plan for England'. Chapter 10 of the plan sets out that:

> "In the future, organisations engaging with the Department of Health on tobacco control, for example by responding to consultation exercises, will be asked to disclose any links with, or funding received from, the tobacco industry."

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

UN Summit on Non-communicable Diseases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request that the Prime Minister attend the High Level UN Summit on Non-communicable Diseases on 19 to 20 September 2011. [52309]

Anne Milton: As with all United Nations General Assembly meetings, we will be deciding closer to the time how best to represent United Kingdom interests at the United Nations High Level meeting on non-communicable diseases. The decision on attendance will certainly take into account the importance the UK Government place on tackling the burden of non-communicable disease domestically and globally, as well as the need for efficient use of taxpayers' money in funding overseas trips.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

British Overseas Territories: Finance

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the criteria of poverty reduction, results and value for money were used to determine the budget line for the Overseas Territories in his Department's bilateral aid review. [51877]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is obliged under the UN Charter to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of the Overseas Territories (OTs). The 2002 International Development Act exempts the Territories from the poverty criteria that apply to the rest of the aid budget. Successive White Papers on international development, including those produced since 1997, have committed the British Government to meeting the "reasonable needs" of the OTs as a first call on the aid budget.

Rigorous results and value for money assessments form part of aid settlements that are agreed with OT governments requiring assistance from the British Government. Capital investments and technical co-operation programmes agreed with OT governments are subject to competition to ensure the best value for taxpayers. Commitments are monitored regularly. The Department for International Development (DFID) now uses Her Majesty's Treasury's business case model for all new investments. This further ensures that aid spent in the OTs is focused on clear results and value for money outcomes. Unlike DFID's country aid relationships, our support to the territories is not discretionary. The ultimate goal is to accelerate aid-dependent territories towards self-sufficiency.

Conflict Prevention: Finance

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department provided in funding to the Conflict Pool in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [53754]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Conflict Pool's resources are part of a separate HM Treasury settlement on conflict resources which is managed jointly by the Department for International Department (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Conflict funding for 2008/09 and 2009/10 was provided as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement. In 2008/09 the Conflict Prevention Pool and the Stabilisation Aid Fund disbursed around £185 million. In 2009/10, the two funds were merged to create the Conflict Pool, which disbursed around £180 million.

All three Departments can provide additional funds to the pool for specific purposes when required. In 2008/09, DFID provided £1.2 million to supplement specific Conflict Prevention Pool programmes in South Asia and Africa. In 2009/10, FCO, MOD and DFID together provided an additional £20 million for stabilisation activities in Helmand, of which DFID's share was £11.5 million. All DFID contributions are subject to the rules governing official development assistance (ODA) spending laid down by the OECD' Development Assistant Committee.

Developing Countries: Children in Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department has spent *(a)* directly and *(b)* through multilateral agencies on reducing the use of large-scale institutional care for children in developing countries in the last five years; [51726]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to reduce the use of large-scale institutional care for children in developing countries in the last five years; and what

plans he has to fund projects to prevent vulnerable children from being separated from their parents and entering large-scale institutional care. [51727]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not supported programmes with the specific aim of preventing children entering institutional care. However DFID is working with partner country governments, UN agencies and civil society to improve the lives of children in developing countries, protect vulnerable children from violence and abusive behaviour and enable poor families to care for their children. DFID is doing this through comprehensive health and education programmes, cash transfers and programmes to strengthen the capacity of governments and community-based organisations to care for vulnerable children. For example, DFID is supporting UNICEF programmes aimed at increasing family, community and government support for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV and AIDS in southern Africa.

DFID is strongly committed to working towards children achieving their full potential as expressed in the UN Convention on the rights of the child, which is a powerful tool for engaging on child rights and the millennium development goals.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department *(a)* has made to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme since 2009 and *(b)* plans to make to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme in each of the next four financial years. [51911]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not contributed to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. Ministers are still considering whether providing funds for this programme would represent value for money and make a significant, additional contribution to our support for food and nutritional security in developing countries.

Development Education: Wales

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the delivery of development education and global learning in schools in Wales. [51861]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) have regular discussions with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government on the delivery of development education and global learning in schools in Wales.

DFID's support for programmes to raise awareness of international development, including for development education across the UK, is currently being reviewed. the outcomes of the review will be shared with the Welsh Assembly Government.

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria he uses to determine the level of funding his Department provides for organisations that provide development education in England and Wales. [51866]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) development awareness activities, including development education programmes across the UK, are currently being reviewed.

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultation his Department undertook before reaching its decision to end the core funding of Cyfanfyd in Wales. [51871]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided a grant to Cyfanfyd, the development education centre for Wales, from April 2006 to September 2010. Following a consultation in 2009-10, Cyfanfyd were informed in February 2010 that DFID could not guarantee further direct funding after that grant period ended. This was confirmed in August 2010. DFID's support for programmes to raise awareness of international development, including for development education across the UK, is currently being reviewed.

Ethiopia: Schools

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's bilateral aid review, what estimate he has made of the cost of putting 2 million children into school in Ethiopia by 2015. [53751]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: It costs £20 per year to send one child to primary school in Ethiopia, so the total cost to put 2 million children into primary school will be £40 million per year.

This represents extraordinary value for money. The low income country average equivalent figure is £60 per child per year, three times the cost in Ethiopia.

As well as financing enrolment and completion of primary education in Ethiopia, the Department for International Development (DFID) is also supporting efforts to improve the quality of primary and secondary education, and to reduce inequities in access, both between girls and boys and geographical regions. To help keep children in school and improve their results, DFID will pilot innovative 'results-based aid', paying for results by giving a financial incentive for each additional girl and boy that sits and passes their grade 10 examinations.

International Assistance

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the outcomes were of the World Bank spring meetings held on 15 to 17 April; and if he will make a statement. [53648]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Discussions at the World Bank spring meetings focused on the Bank's work in fragile and conflict affected states and current events in the Middle East and North Africa. I am pleased that, at those meetings, the World Bank agreed to strengthen its support to the region, working with governments and relevant multilateral, regional and bilateral organisations. Governors endorsed the World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development, and encouraged the Bank to incorporate lessons from the report into its policies and operations in order to improve performance in fragile states.

The World Bank approach to energy was also discussed. In my statement to the World Bank Development Committee I emphasised the importance of the Bank's role to support the global climate change agenda, including by promoting renewable energy sources. I indicated that we would continue to work closely with the Bank on this agenda, which includes its forthcoming energy strategy.

World Bank Governors also addressed ongoing concerns about food price volatility, the Bank's role as interim trustee of the Green Climate Fund, and the World Bank Group's strategic direction.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to allocate to the Central Emergency Relief Fund in each year to 2013. [53649]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £40 million to the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) in December 2010, to cover the calendar year 2011. Further allocations for the calendar years 2012 and 2013 have not yet been finalised. This is being considered as part of DFID's response to the Humanitarian and Emergency Response Review (HERR). I will make a statement to the House on my Department's strategy during May 2011.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he raised the issue of the World Bank's funding of fossil fuel projects at the World Bank spring meetings in April 2011. [53735]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In my statement to the World Bank Development Committee I emphasised the Bank's role to support the global climate change agenda, including by promoting renewable energy sources. I indicated that we would continue to work closely with the Bank on this agenda, which includes its forthcoming energy strategy. My statement is available on the World Bank website at:

http://archive.iwlearn.net/web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/DEVCOMMEXT/0,,menuPK_60001657_pagePK_64001141_piPK_64001176_theSitePK_277473,00.html.tmp

The Department for International Development (DFID) has actively engaged with the World Bank as it has developed its energy strategy. DFID has strongly supported the World Bank ambition to increase lending for clean energy and the Bank's shift away from lending for coal fired power stations.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of applications received for the International Citizen Service were from people on low incomes. [51878]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: International Citizen Service is a new scheme. The pilot phase opened for applications on 9 March 2011. The agencies implementing the pilot are in the process of analysing the early application data, including information collected on the household income of applicants. This will be made publically available in due course.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many applications his Department has received for the International Citizens Service to date. [51879]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: As of 31 March 2011, International Citizens Service had received 814 applications.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Absent Voting: Fraud

Michael Fallon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to minimise fraud in postal voting for the 2011 elections and referendum; and if he will make a statement. [53681]

Mr Harper: Postal voters at the polls being held on 5 May 2011 will have been required to provide their signature and date of birth as personal identifiers when they applied for a postal vote. The personal identifiers must be replicated by postal voters when they cast their postal vote, and they will be cross-checked with the original samples to ensure votes are valid. Legislation requires returning officers and counting officers to undertake a minimum of 20% verification of personal identifiers of postal votes which are returned. For the specific purposes of the referendum on the voting system, the chief counting officer has directed that counting officers will check the personal identifiers on 100% of postal votes.

The Electoral Commission, in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, has issued guidance to minimise the potential for malpractice in the electoral process.

The Electoral Commission has led work with police forces, political parties and returning officers, to raise awareness of integrity issues and strengthen systems to ensure that fraud is detected and prosecuted and to draw attention to existing good practice. There is evidence of effective working between returning officers and local police at recent elections with the police engaged on election issues and committed to the detection of electoral fraud. This approach is continuing for the polls taking place on 5 May.

The Government will continue to keep procedures under review to ensure that the electoral process is secure.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Further Education: Learning Disability

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the *(a)* Young People's Learning Agency and *(b)* Skills Funding Agency on monitoring and assessing the quality of further education provision for people (i) with learning disabilities and (ii) with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [51359]

Mr Hayes: The Young People's Learning Agency and Skills Funding Agency secure the provision of financial resources for education and training for learners above compulsory school age in further education colleges, training organisations, school sixth forms, and academies. Both agencies set conditions of funding, which include minimum levels of performance, assessments of financial health and control and satisfactory Ofsted inspection outcomes.

The arrangements for monitoring and assessing the quality of further education (FE) provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are the same as for other learners. Arrangements to meet the needs of learners, whatever they might be, mean that the specific requirements of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are considered and met.

In February 2011 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a report entitled 'National Learner Satisfaction Survey: FE Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities'.

This report showed that learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in FE express high levels of satisfaction with their learning experience, with 90% satisfied—this is comparable with other learners (91%). However, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are more likely to be extremely satisfied (21 compared with 18%). Three-quarters of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (75%) would speak highly of their provider. They are significantly more likely than other learners to say they would do so without being asked (32 compared with 29%).

Hair Extensions

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether measures are in place to ensure that hair used for hair extensions in the UK does not come from disabled people in foreign countries who have not given consent. [53056]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The UK has no controls on the import of human hair and currently has no plans to introduce any.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 306W, on local enterprise partnerships (LEPs), what the role of LEPs is in skills and training issues. [51610]

Mr Hayes: Local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) are part of the power shift away from central Government and towards local communities in promoting business and driving local growth. As we said in the White Paper for local growth, the Government do not intend to define LEPs in legislation. We envisage that LEPs could take on a diverse range of roles including private sector job creation and establishing skills and training priorities. Partnerships will differ across the country in both form and functions in order to best meet local circumstances and opportunities. We have not prescribed the leadership roles for LEPs on skills or any other activity to support growth in the local economy.

A key reform of the skills system is the Government's commitment to freeing colleges and training organisations from central bureaucracy so they can determine the training offer which responds directly to what learners and employers want. Colleges and training organisations will be encouraged to form self-organised networks to engage more easily with LEPs on skills priorities and how they can best be delivered. In turn, we will encourage LEPs to develop effective working relationships with the further and higher education sector to agree, for instance, how to generate the demand for agreed priorities locally.

Misrepresentation

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations or rules govern the use of the words 'parliament' or 'parliamentary' in the name or title of non-parliamentary charities, companies and organisations. [53752]

Mr Davey: The words 'parliament' and 'parliamentary' are specified in the Company, Limited Liability Partnership and Business Names (Sensitive Words and Expressions) Regulations 2009. The prior approval of the Secretary of State is required before the registration of a company or limited liability partnership in a name that includes either word and before any person, whether or not incorporated, carries on business in the UK under such a name. Before seeking approval, the applicant is required to request both the Corporate Officer of the House of Commons and the Corporate Officer of the House of Lords to indicate whether (and if so why) it has any objections to the proposed name. The application for approval must be accompanied by a statement that the required request for views has been made and a copy of any response.

Shareholders

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to promote the pursuit of enlightened shareholder value by institutional investors; [52247]

(2) whether he has any plans to make use of the powers under section 1277 of the Companies Act 2006 to introduce mandatory voting disclosure for institutional investors; [52353]

(3) if he will bring forward legislative proposals for provisions for institutional investors comparable to the duties of company directors under section 172 of the Companies Act 2006; [52354]

(4) what his policy is on the fiduciary responsibilities of *(a)* asset managers, *(b)* investment consultants and *(c)* insurance companies in pension provision. [52520]

Mr Davey: Following the call for evidence, 'A Long-Term Focus for Corporate Britain,' the Government are considering a wide range of measures and will publish the next steps in the summer.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the case for a cross-departmental review of the fiduciary obligations of institutional investors. [52519]

Mr Davey: Although BIS Ministers have not held any discussions with ministerial colleagues on institutional investors' fiduciary obligations, the Government believe it is important that these obligations are fully understood. Officials from this Department have met officials from other Government Departments to discuss these issues and are considering a range of options.

Students: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what budget was allocated to communicating student finance arrangements to prospective students in each year from 1999-2000 to 2010-11. [51737]

Mr Willetts: An annual breakdown of expenditure on communicating student finance arrangements, including to prospective students, from 1999-2000 to 2010-11 are provided in the following table. As records are only required to be kept for seven years, not all data are available.

The Student Loans Company was also allocated part of the Department's publicity budget to provide some technical information to students and from 2009/10 responsibility for providing information to students was delegated to the Student Loans Company. A breakdown of the allocation made by the Student Loans Company is also provided in the table.

The Department considers it essential to ensure that prospective students and their families know about the full package of support available, to support access to higher education. This Department is working with the Central Office of Information to develop an effective and proportionate information campaign.

We have appointed an advertising agency to support this campaign and expect their costs to be in the region of £150,000, including their charges for production of press and online advertisements. The budget for chosen media is yet to be determined.

£

Financial year	*Department for Business, Innovation and Skills student finance publicity budget*	*Student Loans Company communications budget*
1999-2000	[1]—	[1]—
2000-01	90,000	[1]—
2001-02	1,660,000	[1]—
2002-03	2,025,000	[1]—
2003-04	4,000,000	[1]—
2004-05	2,000,000	280,598
2005-06	4,500,000	1,483,900
2006-07	4,100,000	1,097,092
2007-08	4,500,000	3,288,351
2008-09	4,000,000	2,851,560
2009-10	60,000	5,263,030
2010-11	150,000	1,650,243

[1] Data not available.

Unionlearn

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 720-22W, on trade unions: training, if he will publish a detailed breakdown on how all funding from the public purse has been spent by the union learning fund and unionlearn in each year since 2007-08. [53080]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) provides funding directly to the Trades Union Congress (TUC) under an annual grant agreement to support the Union Learning Fund (ULF) and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation. The main purpose of this budget is to enable trade unions and Union Learning Representatives (ULRs) to work with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take up of learning and raise skill levels in the workplace.

A detailed breakdown of the direct grant funding that was allocated by BIS and its predecessor Departments for each of the last three financial years is set out in the following table. Final details for the 2010-11 financial year will not be available until June 2011. The TUC also publishes an annual report for unionlearn which sets out in more detail how the funding has been used each year. The reports for 2008, 2009 and 2010 are available on the TUC's unionlearn website:

http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/publications/index.cfm

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total staffing costs (including on costs)	3,777,263	4,495,536	4,850,137
Administration, accommodation and overheads	1,251,187	1,434,463	1,536,548
Union Learning Fund (grants to unions for ULF projects)	13,371,550	15,470,001	15,113,315
Total unionlearn grant funding	18,400,000	21,400,000	21,500,000

The TUC has also received funding to support unionlearn activity at a regional level from the Skills Funding Agency (formerly the Learning and Skills Council) and a number of regional development agencies all of which received grant funding from BIS's predecessor Departments. Detailed information relating to such expenditure will be held at a regional level for audit purposes but is not recorded centrally. An exercise to research and collate such information for each SFA region and RDA would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 720-22W, on trade unions: training, under what budget headings Union Learn spent funding provided by *(a)* the Union Learning Fund, *(b)* the Skills Funding Council, *(c)* the Learning and Skills Council, *(d)* the European Social Fund and *(e)* regional development agencies. [49534]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) provides funding directly to the Trades Union Congress (TUC) under an annual grant agreement to support the Union Learning Fund (ULF) and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation. The main purpose of this budget is to enable trade unions and union learning representatives (ULRs) to work with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take-up of learning and raise skill levels in the workplace.

The budget headings under which this grant is provided by the Department, and under which spending is monitored on a monthly basis, are as follows:

Staffing and On Costs,
Other Staff Related Costs,
General Running Costs,
Accommodation and Overheads,
Trade Union Education Support and
ULF (Grants to Unions).

All projects supported under ULF are considered in a competitive bidding process by the Union Learning Fund Assessment Panel, comprising representatives from the Department, the TUC and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). Each project has a separate contract with the TUC with defined learning targets and budget headings that are linked to project strands and the outcomes of that particular project. Funding is only provided in arrears and on production of evidence of spend against plans by way of invoices and proof of purchase/payment and trade unions code the money in such a way that it is separately identifiable for audit purposes. Information on the budget headings for every project that is supported under ULF is not held centrally by the Department and collating this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The TUC has also received funding to support unionlearn activity at a regional level from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) (formerly the Learning and Skills Council), the European social fund (ESF) and a number of regional development agencies (RDA). Detailed information on the specific budget headings relating to such expenditure will be held at a regional level for audit purposes but is not recorded centrally. An exercise to research and collate such information for each SFA region and RDA would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Advertising

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the name is of each public information advertising campaign run by his Department in 2010-11; and how much it has spent on *(a)* press and *(b)* television advertising for each campaign. [53474]

Chris Grayling: In 2010-11 there were no public information advertising campaigns run by DWP.

Departmental Communication

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking in its communications to provide for people who are unable to read printed text but can read via e-mail with the assistance of computer software. [52892]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not regularly supply customer communications via e-mail.

We are committed to improving the accessibility of our websites. Most of these are built to meet the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (version 1.0) at Level AA, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, and are therefore compatible with assistive technologies.

The Department provides customer information about benefits, pensions and finding a job on the Directgov website. The Directgov website complies with Level AA of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

The Department's consultation and policy documents that are of particular interest to people with disabilities are also available in alternative formats (for example British Sign Language (BSL) video and Rich Text Format files preferred by some screen reader users). Some of these documents can be accessed directly through the Department's website.

Most of the Department's website meets Level AA of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. We state the areas of the website that do not currently meet Level AA in the Accessibility Policy:

www.dwp.gov.uk/accessibility/accessibility-policy

and we are working to improve these.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51518]

Chris Grayling: The 2010 spending review was a financial settlement which set the departmental budgets for 2011-12 to 2014-15. No targets were set on job reductions as part of that settlement.

However, the financial settlement will necessitate a reduced level of staffing for the Department in the future. The Department will achieve this reduction through strict control of recruitment; the redeployment of surplus staff where feasible; managing the cessation of fixed term appointment contracts and through natural turnover of staff. Where required, and there is no feasible alternative, the use of early release schemes will be considered.

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50198]

Chris Grayling: For security reasons, the Department prefers not to give details of individual ministerial journeys.

Nevertheless, in a typical week members of the ministerial team do make regular use of the ministerial car service to travel in an official capacity.

As of 5 April, the Secretary of State, the Minister for Employment and the Minister for Pensions last used the ministerial car service on 4 April.

As of 5 April, the Minister for Welfare Reform last used the service on 1 April and the Minister for Disabled People on 5 April.

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements

Disability

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was registered disabled in each of the last five years. [53472]

Chris Grayling: The information is contained in the following table.

The table sets out information about the numbers of staff who have declared themselves to be disabled. Whilst the department encourages staff to make a declaration, declaration is voluntary.

We are aware that not all disabled staff do declare that they consider themselves to be disabled, and the true figure may be higher than the figures shown. For example, the 2010 DWP Staff survey (which is completed anonymously), showed that 11.2% of respondents considered themselves to have a long standing health condition or disability. According to the latest figures provided (December 2010), 6.5% of the workforce have declared themselves to be disabled.

Date	*Department/agency*	*Percentage disabled*
December 2010	DWP total	6.5
	Job Centre Plus	7.0
	Pension, Disability and Carers Service	5.3
March 2010	DWP total	6.3
	Job Centre Plus	6.8
	Pension, Disability and Carers Service	5.1
2009	DWP total	6.1
	Job Centre Plus	6.7
	The Pension Service	4.0
	Disability and Carers Service	6.2
2008	DWP total	5.7
	Job Centre Plus	6.7
	The Pension Service	3.7
	Disability and Carers Service	6.1
	Child Support Agency	3.4
2007	DWP total	5.5
	Job Centre Plus	6.4
	The Pension Service	3.4
	Disability and Carers Service	5.9
	Child Support Agency	3.4
2006	DWP total	5.2
	Job Centre Plus	6.4
	The Pension Service	3.7
	Disability and Carers Service	5.5
	Child Support Agency	2.7

Notes:
The figures exclude all staff who have not declared their disability status.

Employers' Liability Insurance

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 965W, on employers' liability insurance, on what date he plans to publish his proposals. [52777]

Chris Grayling: I appreciate that the Government's response to the consultation is taking longer to publish than we had hoped for. However the issues raised are complex and to ensure we get this right we have been in active discussions with all stakeholders since the public consultation closed in May 2010. We are still carefully considering how to progress the matter to achieve an appropriate outcome and we will bring forward our proposals in due course.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate has been made of the number of recipients of contributory employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group *(a)* with and *(b)* without one year time-limiting in force in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2015-16; [53298]

(2) what estimate has been made of the proportion of contributory employment and support allowance recipients in the work-related activity group who will be affected by a one-year time limit. [53299]

Chris Grayling: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill, we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG).

The following table shows the estimated future recipients of contributory ESA in the Work Related Activity Group and Assessment Phase with and without time-limiting in force. Assessment Phase cases have been included as the legislation intends for them to be eligible for time-limiting if their duration on contributory ESA is 12 months or more. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50,000 claimants and are based on Budget 2011 forecasts.

Contributory ESA caseload in the WRAG/Assessment Phase	*With time limiting in force*	*Without time limiting in force*
2011-12	400,000	400,000
2012-13	350,000	600,000
2013-14	400,000	800,000
2014-15	350,000	900,000
2015-16	200,000	900,000

The legislation intends for all recipients of contributory ESA in the WRAG to be eligible for time-limiting after 12 months. It is estimated that in steady state, without time-limiting, around 77% of contributory ESA claimants in the Work Related Activity Group or Assessment Phase would have a duration of 12 months or more. However, latest estimates suggest that of those affected by the proposal to time limit contributory ESA, around

60% are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA.

More information is available in the ESA Time-Limiting Impact Assessment published on the Department for Work and Pensions website, at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/index.shtml#ia

Employment Schemes: Scotland

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the subcontractors to the prime contractors for the Work Programme in Scotland; which such subcontractors operate in the *(a)* private and *(b)* voluntary sector; which are defined as small and medium-sized enterprises; and what proportion of each prime contract each subcontract represents. [53301]

Chris Grayling: The Department have encouraged and facilitated the Work Programme bidders to engage with voluntary organisations as partners or sub-contractors to deliver the Work Programme. The Work Programme will provide significant opportunities for partnership and collaboration for the voluntary and community sector.

To deliver the overall provision prime contractors will need to underpin delivery by the use of sub-contractors to ensure the individual needs of all customers are met at local level.

As contracts have not yet been awarded I am unable to provide further details at this time.

It is not within the Department's remit to specify the composition of the preferred bidders' supply chain prior to contract award. Post tender discussions are currently under way with preferred bidders and contracts have not yet been awarded.

Further details on the bids and the nature of the contracts will be published post contract award; this may also include additional information regarding the prime providers' supply chain.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what involvement the Scottish Government has had in the design and delivery of the Work Programme to address issues specific to Scotland. [53303]

Chris Grayling: The Government have established a Scottish Employability Forum (SEF), jointly Chaired by the Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Delivery and the Scottish Government Director for Life Long Learning.

It is attended by senior representatives of Jobcentre Plus, the Scottish Government, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and other strategic partners, to provide an infrastructure for strategic level discussion and consultation. The SEF is underpinned by the National Delivery Group (its operational arm). This allowed for the Scottish Government, working with Jobcentre Plus and DWP, to have direct input into the development of the Work Programme in Scotland.

Employment Schemes: Voluntary Organisations

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the compatibility with the provisions of EU competition law of setting a requirement in tender criteria for the Work Programme that 30 per cent. of contracts should be awarded to the voluntary sector. [53631]

Chris Grayling: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) did not specify a minimum level of third sector/not for profit participation in the delivery of the Work Programme in the tender criteria, but we did provide information on the current provision and the levels of third sector involvement.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism he proposes to use to ensure that at least 30 per cent. of contracts awarded through the Work Programme are directed to companies operating on a not-for-profit basis. [53632]

Chris Grayling: EU procurement regulations preclude us from favouring any sector or being able to stipulate quotas for particular groups, either for prime provider bids or within the bidders' delivery chain. However, throughout the procurement process DWP has encouraged bidders to engage with the voluntary and community sector.

As part of the evaluation Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) closely scrutinised each bidder's partnership proposals within their tenders, particularly when considering the supply chain and service requirement criteria, to ensure that the level of community and voluntary sector involvement is commensurate with the needs of Work Programme customers.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the tender criteria for the award of Work Programme contracts contained an explicit requirement that a minimum percentage of contracts should be awarded to the voluntary sector; and whether the successful tenders in Scotland fulfilled this criterion. [53633]

Chris Grayling: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) did not specify a minimum level of third sector/not for profit participation in the delivery of the Work Programme in the tender criteria, but we did provide information on the current provision and the levels of third sector involvement.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households that will be subject to the total cap on benefit entitlement which live in *(a)* private rented accommodation, *(b)* private accommodation obtained by a local authority under prevention and relief of homelessness duties, *(c)* temporary accommodation, *(d)* social rented accommodation, *(e)* owner-occupied accommodation and *(f)* other forms of accommodation. [53739]

Steve Webb: If the benefit cap is applied in full it is estimated that around 70% of those affected will be living in social housing.

This estimated number of households affected by the benefit cap is based on survey data using the Department for Work and Pension's Policy Simulation Model. Sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for other sub groups of those affected by the benefit cap.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether bedroom size will be taken into account when determining whether to apply a reduction in housing benefit to social tenants judged to be under-occupying a property. [53741]

Steve Webb: We intend that the minimum size of a room in order to be counted as a bedroom within a property will be determined in a way that is consistent with standards set by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the devolved Administrations and relevant regulatory bodies. This will be established as part of the implementation process.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the number of bedrooms in a property will be calculated in order to apply any reduction in housing benefit for social tenants determined as under-occupying a property, including how dining rooms, box rooms and living areas are to be distinguished from bedrooms. [53742]

Steve Webb: We intend that the number of bedrooms within a property will be determined in a way that is consistent with standards set by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the devolved Administrations and relevant regulatory bodies. This will be established as part of the implementation process.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants were in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit only, *(b)* incapacity benefit in combination with any other benefit, broken down by type of benefit, *(c)* any single benefit other than incapacity benefit, broken down by type of benefit and *(d)* any combination of benefits, other than those involving incapacity benefit, broken down by type of combination in each of the last five years; and what the average weekly level of benefit received by a claimant was in each category in each such year. [53411]

Chris Grayling: Information on the average weekly amounts in payment for benefit combinations can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The other information requested is given in the following table.

Client group all ages caseload: Benefit combination at the dates shown. Great Britain and abroad

Thousand

	August 2006	*August 2007*	*August 2008*	*August 2009*	*August 2010*
Total	17,524.35	17,613.04	17,886.19	18,802.96	18,821.60
SP only	7,842.67	8,008.84	8,178.33	8,359.15	8,496.83
SP and PC/IS	1,207.06	1,170.17	1,127.76	1,102.53	1,083.67
JSA only	882.55	770.9	848.69	1,454.71	1,315.74
IB only	757.13	717.04	671.44	498.35	414.25
SP and AA	808.4	828.68	858.81	895.8	918.62
IS/PC only	898.34	890.47	877.19	854.37	810.68
IS/PC, SP and AA	737.63	741.49	738.48	735.68	726.39
DLA only	615.66	647.58	678.24	702.24	735.93
IS/PC and IB	622.01	606.51	587.13	467.65	397.2
IB and DLA	532.82	537.44	539.83	514.18	480.26
SP and DLA	473.26	494.21	514.19	533.32	546.4
IS/PC, IB and DLA	485.91	505.03	525.46	525.17	508.7
IS/PC, SP and DLA	306.92	325.32	342.41	360.31	373.76
CA only	272.53	275.93	287.73	297.65	311.23
IS/PC, DLA and SDA	182.6	177.88	172.49	167.15	162.23
IS/PC and CA	140.46	144.55	151.58	166.03	183.34
CA and SP	132.18	142.27	152.07	159.57	161.34
WB only	91.26	73.98	59.34	47.35	39.91
DLA, SDA	62.75	57.74	53.49	49.76	46.51
IS/PC, CA and SP	67.63	73.21	78.68	81.71	83.32
SDA only	9.34	8.3	7.45	6.71	6.08
SDA and IS/PC	15.58	13.64	12.07	10.78	9.72
ESA	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	304.18	418.32
ESA and DLA	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	62.12	134.78
Other combination	379.65	401.86	423.32	446.46	456.4

[1] Nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Benefits included are jobseeker's allowance (JSA), income support (IS), pension credit (PC), incapacity benefit (IB), severe disablement allowance (SDA), disability living allowance (DLA) (from May 2002), carer's allowance (CA), bereavement benefit (BB)/widow's benefit (WB), state pension, attendance allowance and national insurance credits only (through JSA or IB).
2. Figures are shown in thousands and rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Employment and support allowance (ESA). ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Caseload data are available on the Department's tabulation tool at: http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on incapacity benefit in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in the most recent period for which figures are available. [53445]

Chris Grayling: The information is in the table.

Incapacity benefit expenditure by region, 2009-10

	£ million
North East	395
North West	948
Yorkshire and the Humber	568
East Midlands	456
West Midlands	578
East	423
London	491
South East	537
South West	451
Wales	513
Scotland	705
Unknown	44
Total	6,108

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data.

Regional benefit expenditure data is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/la_expenditure.xls

Jobcentre Plus: Social Workers

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unfilled senior care worker posts are listed at Jobcentre Plus. [52785]

Chris Grayling: National statistics on unfilled vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus are published monthly on the NOMIS labour market statistics portal

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

There are two types of unfilled vacancy data available, total unfilled and live unfilled, and these can be broken down by occupation using the 2000 version of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2000). The latest data available are for March 2011.

The lowest-level occupational data available on NOMIS are for care assistants and home carers (SOC code 6115). This includes senior care workers, as well as domiciliary care workers, home carers, personal carers, carers (welfare services) and caseworkers (welfare services). The Jobcentre Plus unfilled vacancy data available on NOMIS cannot be broken down any further to identify unfilled vacancies for senior care workers only.

In March 2011, Jobcentre Plus held 42,787 unfilled vacancies for care assistants and home carers. This includes all unfilled vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus including vacancies which have been suspended pending closure, and as such are not available to jobseekers.

The live unfilled vacancies data therefore provide a better reflection of the number of vacancies available to jobseekers. In March 2011, Jobcentre Plus held 30,272 live unfilled vacancies for care assistants and home carers, which includes live unfilled vacancies for senior care workers.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseekers who missed interview sessions were contacted by jobcentre staff to prompt their attendance during the Newcastle jobcentre pilot project in 2010; and how many of these *(a)* lost their benefit and *(b)* were paid benefit. [52864]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Matthew Nicholas:

The Secretary of State has asked Darra Singh to reply to your question concerning how many jobseekers who missed interview sessions were contacted by jobcentre staff to prompt their attendance during the Newcastle jobcentre pilot project in 2010; and how many of these (a) lost their benefit and (b) were paid benefit. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

In June of 2010, Newcastle-Under-Lyme Jobcentre conducted a short trial during which they tried to contact by telephone jobseekers who had missed a mandatory appointment. Jobseekers were asked to attend the Jobcentre for their appointment the same day to help avoid any potential loss of benefit. The trial was carried out for a period of six weeks. Early evaluation showed that the number of successful calls was very low and the trial was discontinued. No records were kept about the number of jobseekers who lost or were paid benefit as a result of these telephone calls.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets are set for jobcentre staff in respect of referring jobseekers for sanctions; what criteria are used; and if he will make a statement. [52868]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Matthew Nicholas:

The Secretary of State for Work and for Pensions has asked Darra Singh to reply to your question asking what targets are set for jobcentre staff in respect of referring jobseekers for sanctions; and what criteria are used. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

I can confirm that no such targets exist and that we have reinforced this message to our District Managers. Sanctions should only be made where people have not adhered to their jobseeker obligations.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many payments for jobseeker's allowance were terminated *(a)* as a result of employment and *(b)* for other reasons in (i) each London borough and (ii) the UK in each of the last five years. [53387]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking;

how many payments for jobseeker's allowance were terminated (a) as a result of employment and (b) for other reasons in (i) each London borough and (ii) the UK in each of the last five years. 53387

The tables show a breakdown of the destination of off-flows from Job Seeker's Allowance recorded by Jobcentre Plus in each year since January to December 2006.

A copy of these tables will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

This information comes from a form completed by Jobcentre Plus employees when terminating a claim. Although effort is made to complete the termination as accurately as possible for each claim, there is a significant proportion where the reason is not specific: such as ceased claiming, not known and failed to sign.

Table 1: Destination of off-flows from jobseeker's allowance for each London borough and the UK from January 2006 to December 2006

	Into paid employment[1]	*Other specified reasons*	*Not known*[2]	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	2,535	2,345	4,805	9,685
Barnet	3,820	2,625	7,290	13,735
Bexley	2,725	1,425	3,380	7,530
Brent	3,975	2,590	9,080	15,645
Bromley	3,235	1,580	5,165	9,980
Camden	2,545	2,635	5,515	10,695
City of London	40	45	70	155
Croydon	4,035	2,605	9,970	16,610
Ealing	3,945	3,355	7,780	15,080
Enfield	3,465	2,900	8,225	14,590
Greenwich	3,795	2,865	6,505	13,165
Hackney	3,170	3,650	8,550	15,370
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,085	2,245	4,360	8,695
Haringey	3,680	2,840	9,130	15,650
Harrow	2,365	1,580	4,825	8,770
Havering	2,715	1,480	3,445	7,640
Hillingdon	3,050	1,900	5,130	10,085
Hounslow	3,175	2,205	5,635	11,010
Islington	2,545	3,065	6,435	12,045
Kensington and Chelsea	1,280	1,465	2,490	5,235
Kingston upon Thames	1,425	755	2,355	4,535
Lambeth	4,185	4,020	12,120	20,330
Lewisham	4,045	3,305	8,590	15,945
Merton	2,240	1,280	4,310	7,835
Newham	3,865	3,985	8,460	16,310
Redbridge	2,725	2,270	5,830	10,825
Richmond upon Thames	1,485	745	2,410	4,640
Southwark	3,995	2,695	10,325	17,015
Sutton	2,010	1,045	3,085	6,140
Tower Hamlets	3,925	2,970	7,385	14,280
Waltham Forest	3,130	3,100	6,355	12,585
Wandsworth	3,065	2,210	5,505	10,780
Westminster	1,985	2,225	4,775	8,985
United Kingdom	983,505	513,440	1,041,660	2,538,605

Table 2: Destination of off-flows from jobseeker's allowance for each London borough and the UK from January 2007 to December 2007

	Into paid employment[1]	*Other specified reasons*	*Not known*[2]	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	2,570	2,500	5,205	10,275
Barnet	3,345	2,730	6,650	12,725
Bexley	2,545	1,555	3,755	7,855
Brent	4,195	2,880	9,025	16,100
Bromley	3,040	1,900	4,740	9,680
Camden	2,520	2,980	5,400	10,900
City of London	45	50	95	185
Croydon	4,275	3,320	8,935	16,530
Ealing	3,620	3,535	7,305	14,465
Enfield	3,515	3,370	9,345	16,230
Greenwich	3,840	3,135	6,775	13,750
Hackney	3,550	4,530	9,110	17,190
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,255	2,585	4,305	9,145
Haringey	3,910	3,220	10,160	17,290
Harrow	2,285	1,675	4,385	8,345
Havering	2,600	1,505	3,545	7,650
Hillingdon	2,810	2,025	5,210	10,050
Hounslow	2,920	2,240	5,835	10,990
Islington	2,640	3,430	6,295	12,365
Kensington and Chelsea	1,305	1,545	2,635	5,485
Kingston upon Thames	1,325	720	2,055	4,100
Lambeth	3,865	4,345	10,670	18,880
Lewisham	3,935	3,835	8,860	16,630
Merton	2,165	1,565	3,890	7,620
Newham	4,230	4,490	9,470	18,185
Redbridge	2,445	2,445	6,615	11,505
Richmond upon Thames	1,450	805	2,175	4,430
Southwark	4,345	2,555	9,820	16,720
Sutton	1,790	1,060	2,740	5,595
Tower Hamlets	4,035	3,605	8,515	16,155
Waltham Forest	3,285	3,620	7,640	14,540
Wandsworth	2,685	2,260	6,165	11,110
Westminster	1,980	2,480	4,175	8,635
United Kingdom	955,120	571,790	1,091,420	2,618,330

Table 3: Destination of off-flows from jobseeker's allowance for each London borough and the UK from January 2008 to December 2008

	Into paid employment[1]	*Other specified reasons*	*Not known*[2]	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	2,370	2,255	5,380	10,005
Barnet	3,175	2,340	6,365	11,880
Bexley	2,380	1,385	3,550	7,320
Brent	3,870	2,460	9,135	15,465
Bromley	3,015	1,805	4,195	9,015
Camden	2,290	2,385	5,120	9,790
City of London	30	40	85	155
Croydon	4,200	3,250	8,460	15,910
Ealing	3,565	3,650	7,235	14,450
Enfield	3,435	3,205	8,100	14,735
Greenwich	3,440	2,835	6,260	12,530
Hackney	3,585	4,905	8,355	16,845
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,190	2,265	4,505	8,955
Haringey	3,740	2,850	8,685	15,275
Harrow	2,165	1,480	4,300	7,950
Havering	2,710	1,660	3,775	8,140

Table 3: Destination of off-flows from jobseeker's allowance for each London borough and the UK from January 2008 to December 2008

	Into paid employment[1]	*Other specified reasons*	*Not known*[2]	*Total*
Hillingdon	2,535	1,770	5,420	9,725
Hounslow	2,690	2,150	5,645	10,485
Islington	2,655	3,075	6,015	11,750
Kensington and Chelsea	1,240	1,390	2,670	5,305
Kingston upon Thames	1,275	725	2,135	4,135
Lambeth	3,705	4,255	9,850	17,810
Lewisham	3,695	3,510	9,005	16,210
Merton	1,835	1,410	3,440	6,680
Newham	3,865	4,215	8,645	16,725
Redbridge	2,610	2,530	6,520	11,660
Richmond upon Thames	1,320	730	1,990	4,040
Southwark	3,865	2,260	8,705	14,830
Sutton	1,840	1,010	2,865	5,720
Tower Hamlets	4,085	3,350	8,675	16,110
Waltham Forest	3,240	3,260	7,885	14,385
Wandsworth	2,435	2,105	5,655	10,195
Westminster	1,845	2,460	4,350	8,650
United Kingdom	938,725	569,105	1,109,925	2,617,755

Table 4: Destination of off-flows from jobseeker's allowance for each London borough and the UK from January 2009 to December 2009

	Into paid employment[1]	*Other specified reasons*	*Not known*[2]	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	3,180	2,675	7,925	13,780
Barnet	4,930	3,385	10,355	18,670
Bexley	4,305	2,125	6,240	12,670
Brent	5,245	3,395	12,535	21,170
Bromley	4,935	2,555	7,415	14,905
Camden	3,235	2,765	7,270	13,270
City of London	60	45	115	220
Croydon	6,220	4,200	12,430	22,850
Ealing	4,955	4,605	10,190	19,750
Enfield	4,710	4,390	11,250	20,350
Greenwich	4,935	3,640	9,845	18,415
Hackney	4,950	5,560	11,395	21,900
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,155	2,730	6,275	12,155
Haringey	4,440	3,535	11,395	19,370
Harrow	3,240	2,240	6,700	12,180
Havering	4,425	2,240	6,950	13,610
Hillingdon	3,735	2,440	8,640	14,810
Hounslow	3,725	3,375	8,720	15,825
Islington	3,970	3,330	7,535	14,835
Kensington and Chelsea	1,690	1,570	4,020	7,285
Kingston upon Thames	2,180	1,060	3,730	6,970
Lambeth	5,225	4,170	14,270	23,665
Lewisham	5,440	4,175	12,975	22,590
Merton	2,750	1,795	5,820	10,365
Newham	4,900	4,530	12,200	21,630
Redbridge	3,945	3,260	10,350	17,555
Richmond upon Thames	2,415	1,130	3,615	7,160
Southwark	4,905	2,725	11,940	19,570
Sutton	3,060	1,485	5,565	10,110
Tower Hamlets	5,005	3,810	12,170	20,985
Waltham Forest	4,210	3,825	11,595	19,625
Wandsworth	4,035	2,495	9,340	15,870
Westminster	2,625	2,260	6,085	10,970
United Kingdom	1,367,815	662,400	1,737,235	3,767,450

Table 5: Destination of off-flows from jobseeker's allowance for each London borough and the UK from January 2010 to December 2010

	Into paid employment[1]	*Other specified reasons*	*Not known*[2]	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	4,260	2,780	7,645	14,685
Barnet	5,750	3,365	9,300	18,415
Bexley	4,960	2,085	5,550	12,595
Brent	6,305	3,580	13,290	23,175
Bromley	5,585	2,640	7,150	15,375
Camden	4,235	2,965	7,160	14,360
City of London	70	50	90	205
Croydon	7,965	4,450	12,935	25,350
Ealing	6,680	5,120	11,450	23,255
Enfield	6,210	4,385	11,430	22,025
Greenwich	5,855	3,675	9,460	18,990
Hackney	6,450	4,395	11,815	22,660
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,630	2,280	6,450	12,360
Haringey	6,155	3,625	11,550	21,335
Harrow	3,485	2,410	6,760	12,655
Havering	5,115	2,380	6,715	14,215
Hillingdon	5,060	3,015	9,040	17,115
Hounslow	4,345	3,480	9,880	17,700
Islington	5,595	3,615	7,665	16,875
Kensington and Chelsea	2,110	1,530	3,965	7,605
Kingston upon Thames	2,615	1,100	3,465	7,180
Lambeth	7,250	4,145	14,275	25,670
Lewisham	6,635	4,530	12,510	23,670
Merton	3,475	2,065	5,360	10,905
Newham	6,305	4,485	12,865	23,660
Redbridge	4,690	3,130	9,880	17,695
Richmond upon Thames	2,535	1,150	3,315	7,000
Southwark	5,820	3,490	12,150	21,460
Sutton	3,565	1,530	4,925	10,020
Tower Hamlets	6,625	3,740	11,600	21,960
Waltham Forest	5,340	3,710	11,205	20,255
Wandsworth	5,065	2,450	8,720	16,240
Westminster	3,440	2,605	5,990	12,035
United Kingdom	1,538,330	686,925	1,715,415	3,940,670

[1] Either found work or increased work to 16+ hours/week.

[2] Includes ceased claiming and failed to sign.

Note:

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

Poverty: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish his Department's assessment of the effect on child poverty of his proposal to reduce the additional financial support within child tax credits and income support for families with disabled children in receipt of low and medium rate care component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and/or mobility component of DLA. [53300]

Maria Miller: Under universal credit the cash additions for families with disabled children and the cash additions for adults will be aligned, with the higher rate over £52 a year more than the current rate. The Government will also extend eligibility for the higher rate to children who are severely visually impaired (currently only entitled to the disabled child element). Eligibility for the disabled child additions will, as now, be linked to the rate of disability living allowance they receive. The impact on child poverty of this approach will be included in the next version of the Welfare Reform Bill's impact assessment which we expect to publish before the Lords Committee stage.

Social Security Benefits

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in benefits to people domiciled outside the UK in each of the last three years. [53187]

Chris Grayling: The information is in the table. Data for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Overseas benefit expenditure, 2007-08 to 2009-10

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Overseas expenditure (£ million)	2,451.4	2,634.9	2,849.4
Total DWP benefit expenditure (£ million)	125,457.8	134,906.6	147,069.4
Overseas proportion (percentage)	2.0	2.0	1.9

Notes:
1. Benefits included:
Attendance Allowance
Bereavement benefits
Carers Allowance
Disability Living Allowance
Employment and Support Allowance
Incapacity Benefit
Income Support
Jobseeker's Allowance
Pension Credit
Severe Disablement Allowance
State Pension
Winter Fuel Payments
2. Around 97% of overseas expenditure is on state pension.
3. Benefit expenditure data, including overseas figures, may be found here:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data.

Social Security Benefits: Autism

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of allowing people with an autism spectrum disorder to appoint an independent advocate to help them during the benefits assessment process. [53320]

Chris Grayling: We recognise that attending any medical assessment can be a stressful experience, and these will not be carried out if there is enough existing evidence on the customer's current condition to decide entitlement to the particular benefit in question. The healthcare professionals who carry out the examinations are trained in assessing vulnerable customers, and when people are asked to come for an assessment they are positively encouraged to bring someone with them, this may be an advocate.

Additionally, there are already provisions in place for individuals who have more severe conditions and are unable to act on their own behalf. In these circumstances an advocate may be appointed to act on the individual's behalf and take responsibility for all matters relating to their welfare benefits.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much benefit was paid to claimants in Airdrie and Shotts constituency in 2010-11; and what estimate has been made of the level of payments in 2011-12. [53032]

Chris Grayling: Benefit expenditure by parliamentary constituency is not available for all benefits, and outturn benefit expenditure for 2010-11 is not yet available. Expenditure in Airdrie and Shotts constituency in 2009-10 on the benefits listed was £196.3 million.

Benefits included:

Attendance Allowance
Bereavement benefits
Carers Allowance
Disability Living Allowance
Employment and Support Allowance
Incapacity Benefit
Income Support
Jobseeker's Allowance
Pension Credit
Severe Disablement Allowance
State Pension
Winter Fuel Payments

These benefits accounted for 80.1 % of DWP benefit expenditure in 2009-10.

Note:

Benefit expenditure tables, including constituency-level tables, are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Source:

DWP statistical and accounting data, and DWP benefit expenditure forecasts, Budget 2011.

State Retirement Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many of those estimated to face a delay in reaching state pension age of exactly two years as a result of the proposed new timetable for accelerating state pension age live in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the North West, *(d)* the East Midlands, *(e)* the West Midlands, *(f)* London, *(g)* the South East, *(h)* the South West and *(i)* the East of England; [53644]

(2) how many of those estimated to face a delay in reaching state pension age of exactly two years as a result of the proposed new timetable for accelerating state pension age live in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [53645]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 591W.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's consultation document, A state pension for the 21st century, what steps he is taking to ensure compliance with age discrimination legislation of the proposals contained in that consultation to increase the basic state pension from a certain date for new pensioners. [53646]

Steve Webb: The Government are currently consulting on two high level options for state pension reform and are mindful of the need to take account of wider legal obligations, including on age discrimination, as part of ongoing policy development.

It should be noted that both options for reform set out in the Government's consultation paper are designed to be cost neutral, and would therefore not involve additional expenditure on state pensions for new pensioners compared with if the current system were continued.

If, following consultation, the proposals are taken further, the Government will produce a White Paper and impact assessment which will consider issues such as age discrimination as a matter of course.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who will experience a delay in their state pension age of more than a year as a result of the proposed timetable for accelerating the state pension age live in *(a)* each region, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [53647]

Steve Webb: The Department's estimates, made on the basis of the mid-2009 office for National Statistics population estimates, of the approximate number of women whose state pension age will increase by more than a year are set out in the following table:

	Thousands
East Midlands	38
East of England	49
London	52
North East	23
North West	58
South East	71
South West	47
West Midlands	45
Yorkshire and Humber	43
Scotland	46
Wales	27
Northern Ireland	14

Work Capability Assessment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the budget allocated for the implementation of the revised work capability assessment (WCA) includes the cost of implementing any recommendations arising from Professor Harrington's independent review of WCA. [53159]

Chris Grayling: No, the implementation of the recommendations contained within Professor Harrington's independent review will be funded from alternative departmental sources.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 4 May 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Attorney-General how many first class rail journeys were undertaken by staff in his Department between April 2010 and April 2011; and what the total cost was of such journeys. [53163]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Attorney-General what advice the Law Officers' Departments provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in those Departments. [52812]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol), Attorney-General's Office (AGO) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) do not currently operate any general intern, voluntary or work experience placement schemes. Anyone making inquiries about such types of working is advised of this position and would be routinely directed to the civil service website:

www.civilservice.gov.uk

where civil service jobs are advertised.

HMCPSI does use some volunteers as lay inspectors but these would be recruited directly from charitable organisations with links to the criminal justice system.

TSol also recruits some legal trainees via the Government Legal Service legal trainee scheme and at any given time has about 18 people on the scheme. In advance of commencing their training contracts, TSol also offers work experience to the trainees so that they have some familiarity with the organisation and the wider GLS.

In the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) work experience placements and volunteer work are devolved and thus managed by individual CPS areas. Each area advises applicants according to their own local arrangements.

The CPS does not have an intern scheme, but refers those wishing to work as interns to websites with details of Government internship schemes.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) currently operates an internship scheme in conjunction with the University of Bath's BSc Business Administration and MSc Advanced Management Practice programmes. Students is recruited through an advertisement at the university and by holding competency based interviews.

When appropriate the SFO also provides some work experience and work shadowing placements, however due to operational constraints the SFO is unable to provide resources to accede to every request received.

Human Trafficking

Jack Dromey: To ask the Attorney-General when he expects the Crown Prosecution Service to publish its public policy statement on the prosecution of cases involving human trafficking. [53331]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) expects to publish its public policy statement on the prosecution of cases involving human trafficking by the end of June.

A public consultation on the draft public policy statement was held last year to seek a wide range of views on how the CPS handles cases involving victims of human trafficking offences. Each individual response has been reviewed and a summary of the responses received will be published at the same time as the public policy statement.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Serjeant at Arms Directorate

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many members of the Serjeant at Arms Directorate there are in each payband. [53135]

John Thurso: At 1 April 2011, the full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in post were:

Pay band	*Staff numbers (full-time equivalent)*
SC1A	1
SC1	1
A1	1
B1	3
B2	3
C	38
D11	8.79
Total	55.79

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Divisions

Mr Amess: To ask the Leader of the House how many divisions in the House of Commons took place after midnight in each session since 1980-81. [53183]

Sir George Young: The Government do not keep a record of the times of divisions in the House of Commons. This information is however a matter of public record.

Oral Questions

Margot James: To ask the Leader of the House if he will reverse his decision to reduce the time allocation for question time for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to 45 minutes. [52995]

Sir George Young: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 347-48, to my hon. Friend the Member for Thirsk and Malton (Miss McIntosh).

Following a request from the official Opposition, the Government increased the time allocation for questions for oral answer to the Deputy Prime Minister. As a consequence of the pressures on the time available for oral questions, it was necessary for changes to be made to the questions rota.

I have no current plans to reverse this decision, but it will be kept under review.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities: Older People

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Prime Minister if he will appoint a Minister for Older People. [53829]

The Prime Minister: The Minister of State, Department of Health, the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Paul Burstow) and the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, the hon. Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb), are responsible for a wide range of issues affecting older people. They jointly chair the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by her Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53807]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not own any property. The Department occupies a civil estate building in central London, and rents office accommodation in Cardiff.

SCOTLAND

Oil and Gas: Supplementary Charge

4. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect on Scotland of the change to the supplementary charge on profits on oil and gas. [53557]

Michael Moore: I have had discussions with many colleagues, including Treasury Ministers, Energy Ministers and senior representatives of the oil industry. As a result of the high oil prices, UK oil and gas production is more profitable. Therefore, it is fair for these companies to contribute more and this is why the Government increased the supplementary charge on profits from UK oil and gas production as part of the fair fuel stabiliser.

Work Programme

10. **Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the recent contracts awarded for the Work programme in Scotland. [53565]

Michael Moore: Over the past year, I have had numerous discussions with ministerial colleagues on the development of the Work programme. The Government are encouraging prime contractors to engage voluntary and private sector organisations in the delivery of the Work programme.

Universal Credit

13. **Iain Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the implementation in Scotland of the Government's proposals for universal credit. [53568]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on a range of issues concerning implementation of the universal credit in Scotland.

Forests

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on forestry policy. [53927]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State and I have had no such discussions. Forestry policy in Great Britain is normally discussed in correspondence between the Forestry Ministers for England, Scotland and Wales.

Roads

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on the improvement of cross-border roads serving Hexham and Berwick-upon-Tweed. [53561]

David Mundell: Improvements to roads in Scotland are a devolved matter. Transport Scotland is responsible for the management and maintenance of the trunk road network in Scotland. The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency consult directly with Transport Scotland and other bodies on any improvements of motorways and trunk roads in England, including cross-border roads.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Premises: Rents

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effects on new businesses of high commercial rents; and if he will make a statement. [53638]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* High commercial rents would make it more difficult to set up new businesses. Commercial rents are set in the market, and high rents would reflect either strong local competition for premises or a local shortage of suitable business property.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision is made in his Department's comprehensive spending review spending settlement for tax increment financing projects. [53992]

Robert Neill: As part of the Local Government Resource Review we are considering how to deliver tax increment financing proposals against a context of greater retention of business rate revenues. The financing of capital investment under such schemes is from the increase in the business rate yield.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52805]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government participates in the Cabinet Office internship and work placement programmes and runs an internship programme with Greenwich university. All enquiries are directed to the Cabinet Office website.

Enterprise Zones

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how often he expects to evaluate the success of enterprise zones; and what performance measure he plans to use for such evaluations. [52723]

Robert Neill: We will be working closely with all of the enterprise zones that are established to ensure that they can all benefit from the experience of the most successful.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to take steps to ensure that businesses located in enterprise zones do not substitute capital inputs for labour. [52731]

Robert Neill: Businesses in enterprise zones will benefit from business rate discounts. It will be for businesses, rather than Government, to decide how best to utilise this extra spending capacity.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has identified potential high value investors that he plans to attract to enterprise zones. [52797]

Robert Neill: The new local enterprise partnerships are at the heart of our commitment to establish the 21 enterprise zones across the UK. As business-led partnerships with a goal of driving sustainable economic growth across local economic areas, local enterprise partnerships are ideally placed to drive enterprise zones forward.

Local enterprise partnerships will develop and implement enterprise zones in their areas, attracting those businesses which they consider will contribute most to local economic growth.

Enterprise Zones: Broadband

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision he has made for funding the development of superfast broadband in the proposed enterprise zones. [53132]

Robert Neill: As specific locations for enterprise zones are put forward, we will consider the broadband networks available in these areas and then decide the most appropriate form of support for market-led roll-out, including, if necessary, public funding.

Enterprise Zones: Finance

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blackpool South (Mr Marsden) of 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 530W, on enterprise zones: finance, (1) how many businesses he estimates will save between *(a)* £0 and £9,999, *(b)* £10,000 and £49,999, *(c)* £50,000 and £99,999, *(d)* £100,000 and £149,999, *(e)* £150,000 and £199,999, *(f)* £200,000 and £249,999 and *(g)* £250,000 and £275,000 in business rates discounts in each enterprise zone announced in Budget 2011 in each year to 2015-16; [53122]

(2) how many businesses he expects will save the maximum of £275,000 over five years in each enterprise zone announced in the 2011 Budget. [53123]

Robert Neill: The Government have put forward a range of measures to develop enterprise zones and make them attractive places to do business. This includes a business rate discount of up to 100% for five years, subject to state aid limits.

The level of discount available will be broadly dependant upon the size and type of business. It will be up to the Local Enterprise Partnerships to identify which type of business they need to attract to promote local growth and this will vary by area.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department's Corporate Procurement Division has issued to fire authorities in the last 12 months. [54085]

Robert Neill: The Department's Corporate Procurement Division has issued no guidance to fire authorities in the last 12 months.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to fire authorities on the ethical implications of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas contracts held by companies bidding for contracts with the Fire and Rescue Service in the last 12 months. [54086]

Robert Neill: The Department has issued no guidance on the ethical implications of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas contracts held by companies bidding for contracts with the Fire and Rescue Service to fire authorities in the last 12 months.

Fire Services: Private Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many former Chief Fire Officers (CFO) took up posts in the private sector in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and what the average time was in each such year between a CFO leaving the public service and taking up a post in the private sector. [54088]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally.

Housing: Planning

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he has considered the merits of making the completion of housing needs assessments for all age groups and across all tenures a mandatory requirement for local authorities when drawing up a neighbourhood plan; [52996]

(2) what mechanism he plans to put in place to ensure that neighbourhood forums and parish councils have access to adequate evidence on levels of local housing need across all tenures and age groups to draw up a neighbourhood plan that accurately reflects local need. [52997]

Greg Clark: Neighbourhood development plans will need to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the local development plan, which will have been informed by evidence on local housing need and tested at an independent examination. This evidence will be available to neighbourhood forums and parish councils in drawing up neighbourhood development plans.

Mobile Homes

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the general competency arrangements to be introduced under the provisions of the Localism Bill will allow local authorities to introduce a local requirement for owners of residential park homes to meet fit and proper person criteria. [53021]

Grant Shapps: The general competency power proposed in the Localism Bill will not allow local authorities to introduce a local requirement for owners of residential park home sites to meet fit and proper criteria. The proposed power does not give an authority any power beyond the powers of an ordinary individual—and individuals do not have licensing or other regulatory powers.

I am aware of the problems many park home residents suffer at the hands of unscrupulous site owners, and the difficulties they often encounter in enforcing their rights. This is why, on 30 April, I transferred dispute resolution under the Mobile Homes Act 1983 from county courts to residential property tribunals, to provide a cheaper and less formal means for residents to enforce their rights. I also plan to consult shortly on improving the buying and selling process for park homes, to prevent the unreasonable blocking of residents' sales. I also plan, at the same time, to consult on a range of targeted measures to improve the site licensing regime that applies to park home sites to give local authorities better tools and resources to more effectively protect the health, safety and welfare of residents.

Planning

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to implement further planning reforms in addition to those within enterprise zones as part of the Government's plan for growth. [52726]

Greg Clark: The Plan for Growth sets out a range of planning reforms that the Government intend to implement, alongside the simplified planning regime proposed for Enterprise Zones.

Planning: Sustainable Development

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to publish a definition of sustainable development prior to the commencement of the National Planning Policy Framework consultation. [52994]

Robert Neill: The approach to defining sustainable development for planning purposes will be set out in the draft National Planning Policy Framework, to be published for consultation in the summer.

Social Rented Housing: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on waiting lists for housing in each London borough in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [53939]

Grant Shapps: The number of households registered on social housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year is published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1783262.xls

TREASURY

Business: Loans

Mr Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much and what proportion of the total lending and additional lending to businesses for 2011 above the level in 2010 set out in the Project Merlin agreement is to be provided by each financial institution subject to that agreement; and how much such lending he estimates is attributable to *(a)* leasing and borrowing on the asset base, *(b)* invoice financing, *(c)* loans, *(d)* intra-group finance and *(e)* actual drawn down overdraft balances (i) in total and (ii) for each institution; [54005]

(2) how much and what proportion of the total lending and additional lending to businesses for 2011 above the level in 2010 set out in the Project Merlin agreement is to be provided by each financial institution subject to that agreement in respect of *(a)* actual overdraft drawn balances and *(b)* an increase in overdraft limit approvals for (i) all businesses and (ii) small and medium-sized enterprises; [54006]

(3) how much and what proportion of the total lending and additional lending for 2011 above the level in 2010 set out in the Project Merlin agreement that is to be provided by each financial institution is a result of approved overdraft limits where it has been indicated to business that the institution was willing to increase the approved overdraft limit prior to the business making an application. [54007]

Mr Hoban: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 678W.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the full design document for the Equitable Life compensation scheme. [54259]

Mr Hoban: The Equitable Life Payment Scheme design document will be laid before Parliament in the near future. The Treasury is in the process of finalising the detail of the Scheme design with its legal and actuarial advisers.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the review of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme to begin. [53615]

Mr Hoban: The operation and governance of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) falls within the remit of the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FSA has commenced a review of the funding model of the FSCS. It will proceed to a formal consultation once discussions on European directives affecting compensation arrangements have been concluded and the Government's policy on the future role of the FSCS in the context of reform of the regulatory architecture for financial services has been settled.

Private Finance Initiative

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to report to Parliament his assessment of the amount of tax revenue forgone by the Government as a result of the tax position of payments under private finance initiative contracts to companies based outside the UK. [53656]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury has issued guidance to Departments which emphasises that Departments should base procurement decisions on the need to secure value for money, independent of any tax advantages which may arise from a bid.

The Government are unable to comment on individual companies' tax arrangements. Any information relating to UK tax liabilities is held by HMRC on a confidential basis and therefore the requested information cannot be provided.

Stocks and Shares

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward proposals to protect the public and investors from irregularities concerning the issuing of asset-backed commercial paper third party notes. [52894]

Mr Hoban: The UK has worked closely with international partners to develop new regulation that puts the markets for asset-backed securities on a sounder footing. For example, new standards of transparency and higher capital requirements were proposed by the Basel Committee and have now been implemented across Europe through the Capital Requirements Directive.

In addition, the Treasury, Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority are working with the UK securitisation industry to develop more consistent standards for UK securitisations.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Australia and New Zealand: Emigration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals took up residence in *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand in each of the last five years. [53935]

Mr Jeremy Browne: British nationals resident overseas are not obliged to inform our embassies or consulates of their presence although we actively encourage them to do so.

According to the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the number of UK nationals who have taken up residence in Australia in the last five years are:

	Number
2009-10	25,738
2008-09	30,590
2007-08	28,029
2006-07	31,401
2005-06	32,152

According to the New Zealand Immigration Service, Department of Labour the number of UK nationals with approved residence in the last five years are:

	Number
2009-10	7,773
2008-09	8,641
2007-08	10,030
2006-07	12,273
2005-06	14,674

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Bahrain. [53911]

Alistair Burt: We remain concerned at events in Bahrain. Although the immediate situation appears calmer, there continue to be many credible reports of human rights abuses. We urge the Government of Bahrain to meet all its human rights obligations and uphold political freedoms, equal access to justice and the rule of law. These do not run contrary to security, but are integral to longer term stability. Dialogue is the way to fulfil the aspirations of all Bahrainis. We urge all sides, including opposition groupings, to engage.

Departmental Work Experience

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53205]

Mr Bellingham: Since 8 May 2010, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London has made 58 offers of internships. 50 of these positions were filled. In order to join the FCO, students must be a British citizen and must normally have been resident in the UK for at least two out of the last 10 years prior to their application. As such, all of the people appointed are from the UK.

The FCO does not collect data from candidates regarding their electoral registration.

Khartoum: Human Rights

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of human rights abuses in response to recent protests in Khartoum. [53306]

Mr Bellingham: Our embassy in Khartoum followed these events closely. We understand that those arrested and detained following protests in Khartoum have now been released. We regularly raise human rights issues with the Government of Sudan, and have made clear that they should ensure the Sudanese people are given the freedom to express their views.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Sri Lankan counterpart on the findings of the report of the UN Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka; and what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on establishing an independent human rights commission. [53993]

Alistair Burt: During my meeting with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 31 March 2011, I encouraged the Sri Lankan Government to engage constructively with the panel. Following publication of the panel's report, our high commission in Colombo attended briefings by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. We have used our contact to underline the need for constructive engagement by the Government with the UN to address the serious allegations raised in the panel report.

We have raised with the Sri Lankan Government the importance of having an effective Human Rights Commission. We will monitor the work of their newly constituted Commission. We regularly discuss and co-ordinate on effective protection of human rights in Sri Lanka with international partners.

United Nations

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has to contribute to cross-Government co-ordination of operationalisation of the final report of the UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights and Transnational Corporations. [52924]

Mr Bellingham: The UK is a strong supporter of Professor John Ruggie and the work he has done as the UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights and Transnational Corporations. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is working with a range of interested Government Departments in respect of Professor Ruggie's draft guiding principles on business and human rights which he is due to present to the Human Rights Council in Geneva in June 2011.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his counterpart in Yemen on the demonstration on 18 April 2011. [53583]

Alistair Burt: I am aware of the further use of lethal force to disperse protestors in Sana'a and Taiz in the period from 17-19 April 2011 resulting in the deaths of several demonstrators and injuries to many others. The use of live rounds and disproportionate force to quell demonstrations is not acceptable. I, along with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and our ambassador in Yemen, have impressed upon senior Yemeni officials the urgent need to respect the right to peaceful protest, to act with restraint and to urgently engage in dialogue to find a lasting political settlement.

Our embassy officials have been in frequent contact with senior members of the Government of Yemen and their Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and EU counterparts. Regular meetings have been held with members of the official Opposition, civil society and various youth movements, and we continue to monitor the situation.

Intensive political negotiations have been undertaken by the international community during April to help facilitate a lasting agreement between stakeholders in Yemen. A UN envoy, Jamal Benomar, visited Yemen as part of an observation mission. This resulted in the UN Security Council discussing the situation in Yemen for the first time in a closed session on 19 April 2011. Following this, the GCC then brokered a revised transition deal between the ruling party and the official opposition group. I welcome reports that agreement is close and stated my strong support for the proposed settlement in a press release on 25 April 2011. Only through the formal signing of a political transition plan will further violence and continuing instability be avoided.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Apprenticeships

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many apprentices *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the arm's length bodies for which he is responsible employed on the latest date for which information is available. [53280]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department employed five apprentices during 2010. The apprentices were supported during their time with the Department by Key Training who worked with them to gain their Level 2 qualifications.

We do not collate this information for our arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Bury South.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when the Creative Industry Council plans to hold its first meeting; how regularly it plans to meet subsequently; and whether it will be a permanent body. [53277]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Creative Industries Council was formed at a round table chaired by myself and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on 16 March this year, and will meet officially for the first time on 6 July. It is for the Council itself to decide on the frequency of its meetings, but it may meet every six months in order to keep strategic oversight of the work being done by the sub-groups it is planned to set up. I would expect the Council to continue while it is clear that it is adding value, and therefore has the commitment and active support of its members.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what his policy objective is on widening access for under-represented groups in art and cultural activities; [53313]

(2) what his policy objective is on widening participation in art and cultural activities. [53314]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Objectives for widening access and participation in the arts are set by Arts Council England. It is integral to the Arts Council mission to get more people attending and taking part in the arts, and that the arts reflect the diversity of contemporary England. The Arts Council's 10-year strategic framework 'Achieving great art for everyone':

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/about-us/a-strategic-framework-for-the-arts/

includes the goal "More people experience and are inspired by the arts". Focusing on long-term collaborative action, this strategic framework will enable the Arts Council to work with partners to create the conditions in which great art can be made, experienced and appreciated by as many people as possible.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has held with the Secretaries of State for *(a)* Education and *(b)* Business, Innovation and Skills on the education and training needs of the creative industries. [53316]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Wantage (Mr Vaizy) has regular meetings with the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I held a round table on 16 March and the Creative Industries Council will have its first meeting in July.

BBC

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the BBC Trust and *(c)* other media organisations on establishing a common good communication council. [53276]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have had no discussions with the Cabinet Office, BBC Trust or other media organisations about establishing a common good communication council since that proposal was recommended in the review of Government direct communication and the role of the Central Office of Information last month. However, my officials have been liaising with the Cabinet Office about possible future developments and the scope for the BBC and other broadcasters to explore innovative promotional collaborations with charities and the voluntary sector.

Broadband

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has set a target for the proportion of the population to have access to high-speed broadband. [53317]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: No specific target has been set. The private sector has announced plans that will provide high-speed broadband access to at least two-thirds of the population of the UK. The Government have allocated £530 million up to 2015 to support broadband rollout in those areas the market will not reach. We intend to use that money to support projects that will provide access to high-speed broadband to as many of the remaining third of the population as possible while ensuring a basic level of access to virtually everybody.

It is our aim that by the end of this Parliament, the UK should boast the best superfast broadband in Europe and be up there with the very best in the world.

Film: Industry

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any winners of Academy Awards in 2011 received support from his Department in the last three years. [53269]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: No. Government do not fund film makers directly, however several of the award winners have received support from the national lottery funding administered through the Film Fund managed by the

UK Film Council (UKFC). For example, the principal Oscar winner, The King's Speech, received £1.02 million of lottery funding. It is important to note the same Film Lottery Fund mechanism used to support these films is now managed by the British Film Institute (BFI).

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any UK Bafta Award winners in 2011 received support from his Department in the last three years. [53318]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: No, Government do not fund film makers directly; however several of the award winners have received support from the national lottery through the Film Fund managed by the UK Film Council (UKFC). For example, The King's Speech received £1.02 million of lottery funding. Other award nominees such as Made in Dagenham, Another Year and The Arbor also benefited from Film Fund Lottery support. It is important to note the Film Lottery Fund mechanism to support these films is currently being managed by the same team of individuals, now operating within the British Film Institute (BFI).

Tote

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what provisions he has put in place to prevent all or part of the Tote being re-sold shortly after its future is determined; [52105]

(2) what anti-embarrassment clauses he has put in place as part of the process to determine the future of the Tote; [52106]

(3) what weighting is being given to each of the stated criteria in the process to determine the future of the Tote; [52107]

(4) what assessment of the long-term effect on the *(a)* economy and *(b)* public purse is being made during the process to resolve the future of the Tote; [52110]

(5) what provision he has put in place to prevent the Tote being sold to an operator that bases its remote gambling platforms offshore; [52111]

(6) what steps he is taking to ensure that the outcome of the process to determine the future of the Tote is in the best interests of the horseracing industry. [52113]

John Penrose: For the time being the details of the process for resolving the future of the Tote remain commercially sensitive. I have already outlined as much as I can at this stage to Parliament, in written statements and Adjournment debates, and I hope to announce more (including the name of any successful bidder) later in the spring in line with the timetable set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Budget 2011.

National Lottery

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many lottery terminals there are in England; and how many of these are in supermarket-owned premises. [53194]

John Penrose *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The hon. Lady's researchers can find this information in Camelot's Stakeholder Report 2010, in the 'Stakeholder engagement' section, under 'Retailers':

http://www.camelotgroup.co.uk/stakeholderreport2010/03_StakeholderEngagementTable.html

NDPBs: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the total monetary value is of *(a)* bonus and *(b)* special payments paid to (i) executive directors and (ii) members of executive teams of each non-departmental public body and agency for which his Department is responsible in the last three financial years for which figures are available; what criteria were used for making such payments; and what proportion of the annual totals of such payments was paid from the public purse. [53112]

John Penrose *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Ofcom

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what fee will be paid to Ofcom for the use of spectrum holdings held by *(a)* Vodafone, *(b)* Telefonica and *(c)* Everything Everywhere in the 2011-12 financial year. [52753]

Mr Vaizey: No fees are payable for the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System ("3G") spectrum auctioned in 2000 which included rights to use to 2021. The total fees payable for other spectrum holdings are £15,618,240 for Vodafone and for Telefonica O2. Everything Everywhere will pay £33,264,000.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when the method for calculating the fees paid by mobile operators to Ofcom for the use of radio spectrum was last revised. [52754]

Mr Vaizey: The method for calculation of fees was established in 1998. The Government's Direction to Ofcom (20 December 2010) requires Ofcom to revise this to reflect the full market value of the spectrum after the auction for 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz spectrum has been completed.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what fee was paid to Ofcom in each financial year between 2007-08 and 2010-11 for the use of 1800 MHz spectrum by *(a)* Orange and *(b)* T-Mobile. [52755]

Mr Vaizey: For each year during the stated period Orange and T-Mobile paid £16,632,000 each to Ofcom.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what fee was paid to Ofcom in each financial year between 2007-08 and 2010-11 for the use of 900 MHz spectrum by *(a)* Vodafone and *(b)* Telefonica O2. [52756]

Mr Vaizey: For each year during the stated period, Vodafone and Telefonica O2 paid £12,402,720 each to Ofcom.

Olympic Games 2012: Folk Dance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with representatives of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games the inclusion of English traditional folk dance in the London 2012 Olympics opening and closing ceremonies; and if he will make a statement. [53785]

Hugh Robertson: Pursuant to my reply to the hon. Member for Colchester of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 615W, the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic games (LOCOG) has appointed a world class group of creative experts to develop Olympic and Paralympic ceremonies that will reflect this country's rich and diverse culture and heritage. Where necessary, Ministers at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport meet LOCOG representatives about various London 2012 matters but creative decisions relating to the ceremonies are for LOCOG to take.

Public Holidays

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the Government's proposal to move the May day bank holiday. [53312]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Since the publication of the strategy, on the 4 March, the Department has received a wide range of correspondence relating to this issue from Members of Parliament, tourism organisations and members of the public. All correspondence will be taken into account in the consultation exercise.

UK Film Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost of closing the UK Film Council. [53275]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The negotiations affecting the final costs associated with the closure have yet to be fully completed and it would therefore be premature to give an estimate at this point.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: Australia and New Zealand

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Australian and *(b)* New Zealand government on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. [53913]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change regularly discusses climate change issues with key international partners, including Australia and New Zealand.

Most recently, he took part in discussions with Greg Combet, Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, at the Major Economies Forum in Brussels last week. Earlier in April he met with Martin Ferguson, Australian Minister for Resources and Energy at the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) held in Abu Dhabi where among other issues they discussed the Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage Action Group under the CEM which is jointly led by Australia and the UK.

Electricity: Meters

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many smart meters were installed into domestic properties in each of the last 24 months; how many domestic properties he estimates are without smart meters; and when he expects all domestic properties to have smart meters installed. [53850]

Charles Hendry: I expect the mass roll out of compliant smart meters to be completed in 2019. At present a relatively small number of households are receiving meters with smart functions from their suppliers.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has assessed the merits of deploying a standard smart meter containing uniform technology. [53851]

Charles Hendry: On 30 March 2011, DECC and Ofgem published the response to the consultation on the Smart Metering Prospectus on:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/smart_mtr_imp/smart_mtr_imp.aspx

The response sets out the approach to developing minimum smart meter specifications to deliver interoperability to support the functioning of the competitive market.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* energy companies and *(b)* households of introducing smart meters; [53852]

(2) whether he has undertaken a recent impact assessment of the costs of introducing smart meters. [53855]

Charles Hendry: On 30 March 2011, DECC and Ofgem published the response to the consultation on the Smart Metering Prospectus on:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/smart_mtr_imp/smart_mtr_imp.aspx

This was accompanied by revised impact assessments for the domestic and non-domestic smart meter roll-outs, which include the estimated costs to energy companies and households, as well as estimated benefits.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last discussed the roll-out of smart meters with representatives from the energy industry. [53853]

Charles Hendry: I regularly meet representatives of the energy industry to discuss various aspects of the roll-out of smart meters. The most recent formal meeting was 24 January 2011 when I met with a group of senior representatives of the major suppliers and other key stakeholders to discuss the roll out of smart meters, and have another meeting planned later this month.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average cost to energy retailers of supplying and installing a smart *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity meter. [54070]

Charles Hendry: On 30 March 2011, DECC and Ofgem published the response to the consultation on the Smart Metering Prospectus on:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/smart_mtr_imp/smart_mtr_imp.aspx

This was accompanied by revised impact assessments for the domestic and non-domestic smart meter roll-outs, which include estimates of costs of supplying and installing smart gas and electricity meters.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that the introduction of smart metering facilitates a wider choice of tariff structures. [54071]

Charles Hendry: The roll-out of smart meters will facilitate more innovative energy tariffs in a variety of ways, including tariffs which vary by time-of-use. Many more such tariffs will be technically feasible with smart meters. Smart meters will also make it easier for consumers to switch, which over time will reward companies who make new tariff offerings that are attractive to consumers. Ofgem, the energy market regulator, will continue to monitor and regulate energy suppliers in order to promote competition and innovation, and to protect the interests of energy consumers. DECC and Ofgem are working closely together on smart meter roll-out, to ensure that suppliers have appropriate incentives and obligations to deliver smart meters and drive innovation.

Energy: Business

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the accessibility of the Green Deal marketplace to small and medium-sized enterprises. [54061]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to ensuring competition in all three customer-facing roles in the value chain: advisers, installers, and providers. The framework is intentionally flexible to enable multiple business models to compete. Chapter 3 of "The Green Deal: a Summary of the Government's Proposals", published in December 2010, covers this in more detail and is available here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1010-green-deal-summary-proposals.pdf

Annex 3 of the Green Deal Impact Assessment, also published in December 2010, includes a preliminary assessment of the impact of the Green Deal legislation on small and medium size enterprises. It covers the impact of the proposals on the structure of the market and the impact of additional administrative costs on smaller and medium sized enterprises. This assessment is informing the development of secondary legislation. The impact assessment is available here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1002-energy-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

Energy: Housing

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of homes that will be brought up to standard under the Green Deal in Swindon. [52860]

Gregory Barker: An estimate of the number of homes that will be brought up to standard under the Green Deal in Swindon has not been made. However, the Green Deal will be on offer to all households (in 2001 there were around 75,000 households in Swindon)[1] and there is no reason to believe that take-up in Swindon will be lower or higher than the national average.

The Green Deal Impact Assessment[2], published alongside the Energy Bill in December 2010, presented illustrative scenarios in which between 7.1 million and 11.5 million measures are installed in homes through the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation by the end of 2020 across Great Britain. The maximum feasible potential by 2020 was estimated to be 16.4 million measures. It would be expected that measures would continue to be installed under the Green Deal beyond 2020.

[1] http://www.places.communities.gov.uk/download.aspx?theme=7&geolevel=15&dataset=250&place=324

[2] http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?filetype=4&filepath=legislation%2fenergybill%2f1002-energy-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the reduction in carbon emissions from housing stock resulting from the introduction of the Green Deal if *(a)* 10% *(b)* 20% *(c)* 30% *(d)* 40% *(e)* 50% *(f)* 60% *(g)* 70% *(h)* 80% *(i)* 90% and *(j)* 100% housing stock took up a Green Deal package. [54062]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal Impact Assessment (IA)[1] published alongside the Energy Bill in December 2010 presented estimates of the "maximum feasible potential" from the residential sector (8.7MtCO_2e in 2020, and lifetime savings of 287MtCO_2e). The IA also presents illustrative low and high take-up scenarios. These scenarios suggest carbon savings in 2020 of 3.9 and 5.8MtCO_2e or lifetime carbon savings of 126 and 193MtCO_2e respectively.

Assuming one measure per household, the "maximum feasible potential" could see 16.4 million households receiving a measure, or around 60% of the housing stock. Under the low and high illustrative scenarios 7.1 million and 11.5 million households could receive a measure, or around 30% and 40% of the housing stock respectively.

The illustrative scenarios present the number of measures installed over the period to 2020 taking into consideration a range of demand and supply-side barriers to rollout. For example, the "maximum feasible potential" scenario considers a world with no demand barriers and limited supply-side barriers, in which around 90% of the remaining loft and cavity walls are insulated and around 45% of the technical potential for solid wall insulation is installed by the end of 2020; additional feasible potential would be expected to be available after this date.

The scenarios limit the range of insulation measures (loft, cavity wall, solid wall, party wall and door insulation, and glazing). Other measures may well be available under the Green Deal.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?filetype=4&filepath=ligislation%2fenergybill%2f1002-engery-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

Oil: Refineries

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency scheme on the operating costs of companies in the oil refining industry. [53997]

Gregory Barker: The cost impact will vary between participants depending on their size, type and success in reducing their energy bills through energy efficiency measures. Government have not undertaken any additional assessment on the impact of the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme on competition since publication of the final impact assessment in January 2010.

The energy efficiency measures encouraged by the CRC can make organisations more competitive via the cost savings on their energy bills.

Government are currently reviewing the interaction between the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), Climate Change Agreements (CCAs) and the CRC as part of the CRC simplification review. This interaction is of particular relevance to the oil refinery industry.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what plans he has to reduce the UK's reliance on imports of diesel and jet fuel; [53999]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the international competitiveness of the UK oil refining industry in comparison to *(a)* other EU countries and *(b)* the rest of the world; [54000]

(3) what his policy is on incentives for investment in oil refining. [54003]

Charles Hendry: The UK operates within an international market for petroleum products. Levels of imports and exports have fluctuated over the past decade; a significant proportion of the products consumed in the UK are imported and a similar level of UK production is exported. We recognise that the UK's demand for oil products has changed over the last 10 to 15 years, driven by growth in the aviation sector, the increasing numbers of diesel vehicles and a reduction in the use of oil for power generation.

Work conducted for the Department by Wood Mackenzie[1] concluded that the position of UK refineries is middle to low relative to their European competition. This is due to structural factors (e.g. central European markets are landlocked and hence less open to imports and competition) and the fact that UK refineries process higher quality (and hence higher cost) North sea crude feedstock than is the case in much of Europe. Further work to assess the competitiveness of the sector in more detail is currently under way.

The Government recognise that the retention of a refining sector in the UK offers benefits in terms of security of supply (balancing the risks between crude oil and refined product markets) as well as wider socio-economic benefits. Recent investment in several UK refineries demonstrates the continuing importance of this sector the UK. It is Government's role to create the best conditions to ensure that the UK's demand for petroleum products continues to be met; we are seeking to do this through ensuring that the legislative and regulatory framework provides an appropriate balance between meeting wider policy objectives such as environmental protection, ensuring that the international trade in petroleum products can continue and seeking to ensure that the legislative and regulatory framework does not place undue burdens upon domestic industry.

[1] UK Downstream Oil Infrastructure—Final report, June 2009

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent meetings he has had with oil refinery owners to discuss *(a)* future investment in the sector, *(b)* skills development and *(c)* the effects of environmental legislation on operating costs. [54004]

Charles Hendry: I have regular contact with the UK Petroleum Industry Association (UKPIA) which represents UK oil refiners including attendance at the Downstream Oil Industry Forum in January 2011 where trade associations including UKPIA represent the UK downstream oil industry sector.

I have had no recent meetings with individual oil refinery owners specifically to discuss future investment in the sector, skills development and the effects of environmental legislation on operating costs. My officials have regular contact with oil refinery owners on a range of issues, and I am always happy to meet with oil refinery owners to discuss their importance to the sector and to the economy.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the membership of the Downstream Oil Industry Forum is; and on what occasions it has met since May 2010. [54027]

Charles Hendry: The Downstream Oil Industry Forum (DOIF) provides a forum for strategic engagement between the downstream oil sector and the Government. It meets twice a year and is chaired by DECC officials. Membership comprises representatives from: the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the UK Petroleum Industry Association (UKPIA), the Downstream Fuel Association (DFA), the Federation of Petroleum Suppliers (FPS), UKLPG (acting on behalf of liquid petroleum gas distributors), the Tank Storage Association (TSA), RMI Petrol, representatives of the devolved Administrations and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). Representatives of other organisations can be invited as necessary. The DOIF has met three times since May 2010; in July 2010, September 2010 and January 2011.

Thorium

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what plans he has for the future of thorium-based technology in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [54123]

(2) what plans he has for the provision of funding for research and development of thorium technology in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [54124]

Charles Hendry: The Department is aware of the potential of thorium fuelled nuclear reactor designs and is in the process of assessing claims regarding their suitability as an alternative to uranium based reactors in the longer-term.

The Government's chief scientific adviser, Sir John Beddington, with input from a number of sources, recently co-ordinated an assessment of the prospects for research into advanced thorium reactors. Additionally, the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) undertook a recent independent assessment, in which it assessed a number of claims made by proponents of thorium fuel. The report can be found at:

www.nnl.co.uk/positionpapers

The conclusion was that, while the science is reasonably sound, developing reactors based on a thorium fuel cycle would carry major commercial risks. The resources required to develop these technologies to the point at which they might be deployed successfully at a commercial scale are also very significant.

To date, both in the UK and elsewhere in the world, this has prevented private industry and Government from investing in the development of the technology. No thorium reactor design has been implemented beyond relatively small, experimental systems, while many either exist only on paper or have only had specific subsystems demonstrated. As an indicator of the challenge of taking this technology further, the Chinese Academy of Sciences estimates a development period of at least 20 years will be required before a demonstration thorium molten salt breeder reactor might be available.

While thorium does not appear to have a part to play in the UK's near to mid-term energy market, we do maintain an interest in its development. The Secretary of State has asked the NNL to look further into the wider benefits of next generation reactor designs and to compare the use of thorium and uranium fuels in them. We are expecting the findings to be available by the end of the summer.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 451-52W, on the Blue Badge Scheme, if he will provide funding to local authorities sufficient to ensure that all people over the age of 65 years who cannot claim the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance can be issued with a Blue Badge under the eligible subject to further assessment criteria. [54008]

Norman Baker: Disabled people over the age of 65 can be issued with a Blue Badge if they meet one of the eligibility criteria in the regulations that govern the scheme. It would not be right to enable people to be issued with a badge solely on the basis of their age.

Central Government do not provide local authorities with specific funding for their general responsibilities for administering and enforcing the Blue Badge scheme. However, from April 2011, control of funds for eligibility assessments transferred from the NHS to badge issuing local authorities. This was done as part of the Department for Health's £1.3 billion Learning Disability and Health Reform Grant. In 2011-12, the Health Reform aspect includes £5.4 million for the Blue Badge scheme.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the future of the *(a)* pension and *(b)* other entitlements of employees of his Department's Shared Service Centre in the event that it enters private ownership. [52493]

Norman Baker: Any transfer of shared services to a new provider will be subject to the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) and applicable Cabinet Office guidance.

The Treasury is currently conducting a review of the policy that applies to the pensions of staff who transfer from the public sector.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department were in the Civil Service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44354]

Norman Baker: Within the central Department and its seven executive agencies there are currently 161 staff in redeployment pools (of which 44 are in the central Department's redeployment pool). Fewer than five of the 161 staff have been in a redeployment pool for more than six months. These figures are accurate as at 15 April 2011.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51519]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport and associated bodies have no specific job reduction targets. Following last year's spending review it is committed to a 33% reduction in the administration budget (composed of pay and non-pay costs) by the end of 2014-15. For estimates for changes in full-time equivalents for its non departmental bodies, I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 88W.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what requirements he plans to place on any private provider in respect of the location of his Department's Shared Service Centre and its associated jobs; [52494]

(2) what proportion of posts in his Department's Shared Service Centre in Swansea will be retained following privatisation. [52495]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport Board decided on 9 December 2010 that its preferred option for the Shared Service Centre in Swansea was that it would be sold to a private sector provider. In taking this decision, the Board has committed to buying shared services from the new owner for up to 10 years and plans to require the new owner to retain a significant presence in Swansea.

The details of this are continuing to be developed as the Department moves towards launching a procurement process.

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50183]

Norman Baker: The information is as follows:

(a) The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), last used a ministerial car to travel in an official capacity on 3 May 2011.

(b) The Minister of State, Department for Transport, the right hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), last used a ministerial car to travel in an official capacity on 24 March 2011.

The Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), last used a ministerial car to travel in an official capacity on 27 April 2011.

I last used a ministerial car to travel in an official capacity on 29 March 2011.

(i) Information on the Secretary of State for Transport's journeys to his constituency in a ministerial car is not held because he is provided with a ministerial car on a contract basis and journeys made within the contracted hours are not recorded individually. However, the Secretary of State has not used his car to travel to his constituency since May 2010.

(ii) The Minister of State has not made any journeys to her constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010.

The Under-Secretary of State has made 102 journeys to his constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010.

I have made no journeys in a ministerial car to my constituency since May 2010.

Departmental Redundancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in his Department have been offered voluntary redundancy since April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [49184]

Norman Baker: Within the central Department and its seven executive agencies 469 staff have been offered voluntary redundancy since 1 April 2010, not all of whom subsequently took it up. Of these 469 staff, 200 were from the central Department.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to his Department's consultation document on High Speed 2, page 119, if he will consider making provision for property blight compensation arising from the announcement of the recommended route on 21 December 2010 rather than one year after the railway is built. [53061]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 28 April 2011]*: The Government are currently consulting on a range of options for discretionary support (in addition to the assistance already provided under the statutory blight and compensation provisions) for owners of properties which experience a significant diminution in value as a result of proximity to any new high speed rail line between London and the west midlands. Respondents to the consultation may wish to provide comments on these options, or suggest alternative approaches, and the Government will consider these. No decisions will be taken on what option or options should be taken forward to the next stage until the consultation process has ended and all responses have been analysed.

Transport: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the local private finance initiative revenue budget; how much each action he plans to take will save; and how much will be saved through each action in each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period; [46336]

(2) what financial provision his Department has made for the private finance initiative contract for highways maintenance in the Isle of Wight for the period beyond 2014-15; and what proportion this represents of his Department's provision for private finance initiative projects in that period; [46490]

(3) what financial provision his Department has made for the private finance initiative contract for highways maintenance in the London borough of Hounslow for the period after 2014-15; and what proportion this constitutes of his Department's provision for private finance initiative projects in that period; [46491]

(4) what his Department's budget is for the private finance initiative project for highways maintenance in the Isle of Wight in each year between 2010-11 and 2014-15; [46492]

(5) what his Department's budget is for the private finance initiative project for highways maintenance in the London Borough of Hounslow in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15; [46493]

(6) what financial provision his Department has made for the private finance initiative contracts for highways maintenance in Sheffield for the period after 2014-15; and what proportion this constitutes of his Department's provision for private finance initiative projects in that period; [46494]

(7) what the budget is for his Department's private finance initiative project for highways maintenance in Sheffield in each year between 2010-11 and 2014-15. [46495]

Norman Baker: Following the spending review announcement we have been working with promoters of the remaining second round street lighting PFI projects, Nottingham Express Transit Phase 2 light rail scheme and highways maintenance projects in Sheffield, Isle of Wight and Hounslow, to ensure these projects are affordable.

I can confirm we are on track to achieve an overall 5% reduction in the Department's financial contribution to the remaining second-round street lighting projects and hope to make announcements on these projects soon.

I also refer the hon. Member to the Department for Transport's press notice issued on 24 March 2011 in regards to the other four schemes. This announced that we have been able to agree overall savings of 21% (over the life of these projects) in the Department's contribution, while retaining the essential integrity of the schemes.

These projects can now continue with their procurement processes and, subject to approval of a final business case, award the service contracts.

The following table provides the Department's annual grant to the Nottingham Express Transit, Sheffield, Isle of Wight and London borough of Hounslow projects, if they achieve final approval.

£ million

Name of PFI Project	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16 (onwards)*	*Percentage of Department's provision of PFI projects beyond 2014-15*
Nottingham Express Transit Phase 2	0	0	0	33.9	35.4	35.4	11
Sheffield Highways Maintenance	0	0	36.1	44.9	46.1	49.2	15
Isle of Wight Highways Maintenance	0	0	0	15.3	17.1	19.8	6
London borough of Hounslow Highways Maintenance	0	0	0.814	10.7	12.3	14.3	4

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to what extent *(a)* regional input into transport policy and *(b)* funding decisions on projects in regions are devolved in England. [51500]

Norman Baker: In line with greater localism, the Government have already devolved many aspects of transport policy and funding to the local authority level, through for example simplifying and reforming local transport funding. The Government will announce how they intend to take forward further aspects of such devolution in due course.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bread: Prices

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has conducted research into the sale of bread below cost price. [53028]

Mr Davey: The Department has not conducted any research into below cost selling of bread. The prices an enterprise charges for its products is primarily a commercial matter for the enterprise concerned.

Business

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what comparative assessments he has made of the *(a)* size and *(b)* contribution to the economy of UK mid-cap businesses. [52823]

Mr Prisk: Section 3.11 of "Financing a Private Sector Recovery"[1] states

> "Mid-sized firms (sometimes referred to as 'mid-caps') are defined here as having a turnover of £25 million to £500 million. Although there are only around 10,000 companies in this category, they account for around a third of total private sector employment in the UK because of their greater individual size."

Business: Advisory Services

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to assist small businesses following the closure of the Business Link advice service. [52974]

Mr Prisk: The 'Bigger, Better Business' pamphlet published on 5 January, set out the Government's plans for modernising the provision of publicly funded support, information and advice for business. The pamphlet can be found on the BIS website at:

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/b/11-515-bigger-better-business-helping-small-firms

These plans include closure of the regional Business Link advisory service. This will enable Government to:

focus publicly funded face-to-face advice on helping businesses with the potential to achieve high growth;

improve the national Business Link website by offering online business information and tools tailored to the individual needs of businesses, supported by a new national contact centre for those who cannot access the information they need on the website;

and engage with business mentoring providers and the British Banking Association to develop a mentoring network.

The Government are establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) that will develop links to existing private sector provision for business support and encourage their use. We are providing LEPs with information on the different Government programmes and access to funds to help their local communities.

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[1] "Financing a Private Sector Recovery", a consultation document published by BIS in September 2010

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/f/10-1081-financing-private-sector-recovery.pdf

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on small businesses of the closure of the Business Link advice service. [52975]

Mr Prisk: The Government are fundamentally changing the way in which they provide information and advice to small business. These changes are based on evidence and the views of the wider business community.

These changes will:

Focus public expenditure on intensive support to deliver growth, through Business Coaching for Growth—as high growth small and medium-sized enterprises create nearly 50% of private sector job creation;

Continue to improve the Business Link website to provide consistent, quality information to the majority of businesses as part of their interaction with Government, allowing 24 hour access and using the latest technologies;

Offer a new national telephone contact centre to support businesses that do not use the internet;

Engage with business mentoring providers and the British Banking Association to develop a network of business mentors for small businesses—as SMEs prefer the advice of other business people and professionals;

Allow Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to develop links to existing private sector provision for business support and access to funds to help meets local needs.

Cancer: Research

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Medical Research Council provided for research into *(a)* leukaemia, *(b)* brain cancer, *(c)* lung cancer, *(d)* colorectal cancer, *(e)* breast cancer and *(f)* prostate cancer in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [52717]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) does not hold the information in the format requested. It would not be possible to undertake the necessary analysis in the time available.

I understand from the MRC that they do intend to undertake analysis of the 2008-09 and 2009-10 data and this will be available in due course. Information for 2010-11 should be available later in autumn 2011. The MRC spends approximately £105 million (2009-10 data) on cancer and research relevant to cancer.

Community Interest Companies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many community interest companies were registered in each region in each of the last 10 years. [52699]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane) on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1252W.

Construction: Standards

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on the number of pieces of work carried out by bodies accredited to the TrustMark scheme for each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [54013]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of complaints received by TrustMark on a member of a TrustMark scheme operator in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [54014]

Mr Prisk: I understand TrustMark's estimate is that some 7.8 million pieces of work were carried out over the past five years by bodies accredited to the scheme; and that the level of complaints over this period equates to around one for every 7,500 pieces of work undertaken.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53803]

Mr Davey: The Department does not own any buildings.

Departmental Official Cars

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last used a ministerial car while travelling in an official capacity; and how many times (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has travelled to their constituency in a ministerial car since May 2010. [50185]

Mr Davey: BIS has one ministerial car which was last used in an official capacity by:

my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 27 April;

the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk) on 14 April;

my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on 12 April;

my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Universities and Science on 6 April;

my noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment on 29 March;

my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Skills and Lifelong Learning on 2 March;

and myself on 27 April.

Numbers of journeys to constituencies since May 2010 could be provided only at disproportionate costs but the use of the car by Ministers is in line with Section 10 of the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Public Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on Government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on Government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50075]

Mr Davey: Dates and numbers of trips by London Underground or public bus could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However Ministers do travel by public transport wherever possible, taking into account security requirements and other relevant considerations.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50163]

Mr Davey: The Department has not paid for its Ministers to have Oyster or travel cards to use when travelling on Government business.

All travel by Ministers is in alignment with Section 10 of the Ministerial Code issued in May 2010.

Earthquakes: Japan

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will assess the potential effects of the recent East Japan earthquake on manufacturing production in the UK; [53327]

(2) whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of Japanese companies in the UK concerning the potential effects of the recent East Japan earthquake on industrial production by those companies in the UK. [53328]

Mr Prisk: BIS officials are in regular contact with a number of manufacturers including representatives of Japanese companies in the UK to discuss the situation and are continuing to monitor the impact of the earthquake.

Economic Growth

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to section 2.109 of the Plan for Growth, what criteria he plans to use to identify small and medium-sized enterprises with the potential to achieve rapid and significant growth; and what the evidence was for his estimate of the number of such companies. [52793]

Mr Prisk: Business Coaching for Growth will use the following criteria for selecting businesses with the potential to achieve high growth rates:

Small and medium-sized enterprises with 10 or more employees with the potential to increase turnover or employment by an annual average rate of 20% over three years. SMEs with fewer than 10 employees that over three years have the potential to increase employment by at least seven employees or annual turnover by £0.75 million.

Start-ups with potential to achieve turnover of £1m within three years of starting trading, or to have at least 10 employees within three years. Firms or consortia bidding for contracts to deliver Business Coaching for Growth will need to demonstrate, during the tendering process, how they will identify sufficient businesses that meet these criteria.

Analysis of existing Government datasets has established that these criteria will capture sufficient numbers of businesses who will benefit from being on the programme and deliver strong growth as a result.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial provision he has made for contracts for Business Coaching for Growth services; and what assessment he has made of the comparative value for money of such contracts and those previously provided by regional development agencies. [52794]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the *Official Journal* of the European Union contract notice for Business Coaching for Growth, the value of the contracts is up to £173 million (including VAT) until the end of the current spending review period.

The value for money case for Business Coaching for Growth was developed and agreed for the spending review in 2010 and it shows a strong economic return. There is limited evaluation evidence of existing, comparable regional development agencies programmes at this stage.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to allow venture capital firms to tender for contracts for Business Coaching for Growth services. [52795]

Mr Prisk: An impact assessment on the effects of extending the right to request flexible working to all employees will be published alongside the consultation on these proposals which is due to be launched shortly.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to set successful outcome targets for firms awarded contracts as service providers for Business Coaching for Growth. [52796]

Mr Prisk: The Memorandum of Information relating to the tender of the Business Coaching for Growth Programme sets out further information on the monitoring and evaluation of contracts and we expect to discuss this further with potential bidders through the procurement of the Business Coaching for Growth contracts. This will ensure the right targets for contractors are in place and as part of this we expect that outcome targets will be in place.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is committed to evaluating the delivery and economic impact of Business Coaching for Growth and providers of the service would be expected to support this process.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what measure he plans to use to assess progress against each of the measureable benchmarks set out in The Plan for Growth. [53134]

Mr Davey: Measures for the benchmarks set out in the plan for growth are being agreed between the relevant Departments and HM Treasury. HM Treasury and BIS have requested that the data sets that provide a headline measure for each of the benchmarks are contained within departmental business plans. Updated versions of these plans will be published shortly.

Economic Growth: EU Law

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria he used in the selection of outside bodies to work with his Department on consideration of the effect of EU legislation on growth opportunities. [52790]

Mr Prisk: Four UK companies, Balfour Beatty, GlaxoSmithKline, Kingfisher and Tribeka, have agreed to work with Government to help find ways to improve European growth opportunities for UK businesses. The Government decided that a small group was optimal for working quickly and cohesively to identify evidence for how EU laws could be made more growth-friendly for the broader UK economy.

The Government approached companies that trade in more than one EU member state in order to draw on their experience of the implementation and enforcement of EU law across member state borders. Also important to the Government's selection was that there be a range of business sizes and sectors represented so that the evidence gathered could be used for broadest possible affect on the UK economy.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from GlaxoSmithKline on the effects of the implementation of EU legislation on growth and investment opportunities. [52791]

Mr Prisk: The Government are working with four companies, Balfour Beatty, GSK, Kingfisher and Tribeka, to find ways to improve European growth opportunities for UK businesses. We will publish these findings in a report by the end of the year.

All four companies will have the opportunity to contribute to the report equally. The Government will focus on evidence that demonstrates where changes to EU law, including its implementation and enforcement, will have a positive impact on the sectors represented by our partners.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects his Department's consideration of the effect of EU legislation on growth opportunities to be completed; and what plans he has to publish the outcome of that consideration. [52792]

Mr Prisk: The Government, working with their partners, Balfour Beatty, GlaxoSmithKline, Kingfisher and Tribeka, will publish their findings on ways to improve growth opportunities for UK business by the end of this year.

Environment Protection: Exports

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 715W, on low-carbon products: intellectual property, whether it is his policy to support the compulsory licensing of exports of environmentally-sound technologies to least-developed countries. [53155]

Mr Davey: Under the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Governments are able to issue compulsory licenses on patented technologies. For Least Developed Countries (LDCs) this flexibility may have limited impact because they lack domestic manufacturing capability. Whilst TRIPS has been amended to enable compulsory licensing of pharmaceutical products for export to these countries, there is currently insufficient evidence that extending this to environmentally sound technologies would bring significant benefits.

Compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals for export has been used only once to date so it is not clear that this procedure encourages technology transfer. Compulsory licensing is also likely to be a strong disincentive to investment in technology innovation and is unlikely to encourage the transfer of know-how and tacit knowledge which is required to maintain and adapt technologies for local use. By contrast, voluntary licensing arrangements are more likely to foster longer term partnerships and bring about sustainable technology transfer. The UK is committed to providing incentives for business to promote technology transfer to LDCs as required by TRIPS Article 66.2.

EU External Trade: India

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what his policy is on the proposal for data exclusivity for generic drugs in the EU-India Free Trade Agreement; [51031]

(2) what his policy is on the inclusion of the manufacture and sale of generic drugs closely modelled on patented US and European products in the proposed EU-India Free Trade Agreement. [51032]

Mr Davey: The UK policy is to take a case-by-case approach to intellectual property rights within Free Trade Agreements between the European Union and developing countries. The level of intellectual property protection should be tailored to the trading partner's level of development. We stated in the recently published "Trade and Investment for Growth" White Paper that we would seek to ensure that provisions on intellectual property rights in EU free trade agreements did not have negative impacts on the ability of the poorest to access low cost medicines. We would consider any proposals made regarding data exclusivity in the EU-India agreement in the light of the available evidence.

On 13 December 2010 both Indian and EU trade negotiators stated that nothing in the EU-India agreement would limit India's scope for developing and exporting life-saving medicines.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to align applications for the second round of the Regional Growth Fund to applications for the European Regional Development Fund; and if he will make a statement. [53227]

Mr Prisk: Officials in this Department and in the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) teams have worked closely together to align, where practical, the respective funds' bidding processes. Most ERDF programmes will be managing a simultaneous call for proposals to complement the timing of the Regional Growth Fund's second round, with the aim of encouraging applicants to maximise the available public resource. Applicants seeking to access ERDF will however need to comply with the application process and the ERDF specific project selection criteria.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Plan for Growth, page 65, by what mechanism the Government will play a significant role in deciding which interventions the European Regional Development Fund supports; and if he will make a statement. [53228]

Mr Prisk: The Government wish to see that the resources of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) are fully used to deliver the objectives of the Plan for Growth. To help achieve this we announced in February details on the future management of the ERDF within England. This included the decision to restructure existing Programme Monitoring Committees as Local Management Committees which can ensure that, within the parameters already agreed with the EU, Government, local people and businesses can better influence the shape of the ERDF programmes and the projects that they can support, whilst ensuring compliance with European Community rules.

We will consider further reforms to the delivery of the ERDF within England during negotiations on the 2014-20 funding period.

Flexible Working

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of extending the right to request flexible working to parents of children over 18 on *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* larger enterprises. [53587]

Mr Davey: An impact assessment on the effects of extending the right to request flexible working to all employees will be published alongside the consultation on these proposals which is due to be launched shortly.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his timetable is for extending flexible working to all. [53590]

Mr Davey: The "Coalition Agreement: Our Programme for Government" set out the Government's programme for the current Parliament. This committed to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees, consulting with business on how best to do so.

We intend to consult on extending the right to request flexible working to all employees shortly. This extension will require primary legislation so the full timetable will be subject to securing parliamentary time.

Gold

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Office of Fair Trading has taken to investigate practices of gold buying companies. [53694]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has recently taken enforcement action against a number of companies that offer to buy gold from consumers by post.

Following an OFT investigation, which concluded in February 2011, a number of companies signed undertakings to make changes to their business practices. The undertakings related to alleged breaches of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 and the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999.

The OFT investigation raised concerns that the business practices of these companies were not sufficiently transparent and people were being locked into accepting the offer made for their gold. The OFT was particularly concerned with the practice of sending consumers a payment, which if not rejected and returned within restrictive time periods, meant their 'silence' was taken as consent to the payment and their gold melted down. Gold buying companies are under a duty to trade fairly with consumers and should not seek to use unfair terms in their standard contracts with consumers. This enforcement action provided a clear signal to industry on acceptable trading practices in this area.

Graduates

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether information will be included in the Key Information Set for students on the number of students from each higher education institute who start their own business or become self-employed after leaving university. [53363]

Mr Willetts: This Government are committed to improving the information available to potential students to support them in making more informed choices on course and university. The Key Information Set (KIS) for each course will comprise the 16 items most requested by students, plus clear information on course costs. This will include information on: graduate salaries; percentage of graduates employed; and percentage in a full-time professional or managerial job.

It is not currently proposed to include statistics on students starting their own businesses or moving into self employment. The Higher Education Funding Council for England consultation document provides further information.

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_31/

Information on the percentage of graduates who are self employed is collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency through the Destination of Leavers of Higher Education Survey. Additionally, 2011/12 graduates will be asked whether they are setting up their own business.

Hallmarking

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Birmingham Assay Office on his proposals for the future of hallmarks. [53627]

Mr Willetts: As part of the review of public bodies, the British Hallmarking Council was reviewed in August 2010 and I decided that it should be retained. The Birmingham Assay Office was consulted as part of this process. Hallmarking legislation is among the 21,000 regulations included in the Red Tape Challenge on which the Cabinet Office has invited views.

Higher Education: Access

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average household income in each socio-economic band used by his Department to monitor levels of access to higher education. [53125]

Mr Willetts: This Department has not published estimates of the average household income for each socio-economic group.

Evidence on participation in higher education (HE) by socio-economic status has been published in the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance indicators:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/2Q72/141/

and in the Department's Official Release "Full-time young participation by Social Class in 2010 (FYPSEC)":

http://stats.bis.gov.uk/UKSA/he/sa20100722.htm

However, neither publication includes estimates of median income for the specified social class groupings as income data cannot be sourced from the HESA dataset.

The socio-economic status of students recorded in these publications is derived from the HESA student record and is based on an applicant's parental occupation (or the occupation of the person contributing the highest income to the household if the applicant is aged 21 years or over) and uses a simplified version of the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC). Socio-economic status data are only available for home (UK domiciled) applicants. The latest figures on young entrants in HE by socio-economic Status are shown in the following table.

Young[1] UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants by socio-economic classification, UK Higher Education Institutions, academic years: 2009/10

Socio-economic classification	*2009/10*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	62.165
Lower managerial and professional occupations	78.780
Intermediate occupations	34,070
Small employers and own account workers	20.885
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	13.590
Semi-routine occupations	29.935
Routine occupations	13,510
Total known	252,930
Missing[2]	68,445

[1] Covers entrants aged under 21.

[2] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing, 'Never worked and long-term unemployed' or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Higher Education: Admissions

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of children *(a)* in receipt of and *(b)* not in receipt of free school meals went on to higher education in each local authority area in each year since 2001. [53820]

Mr Willetts: The table showing the number and percentage of maintained school pupils aged 15 in each local education authority who progressed to higher education by age 19 in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08, respectively, will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Figures are not available for earlier years.

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. Matched higher education data are only available from 2005/06. Figures for 2008/09 will be available in the autumn of 2011.

Higher Education: Reading East

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of schools in Reading East constituency sent at least one pupil to the University of *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge in each of the last 13 years. [53144]

Mr Willetts: Information has been supplied by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and is in the following table.

Schools in Reading East with applicants accepted to full-time undergraduate courses at Oxford University or University of Cambridge via UCAS

	Oxford University		*University of Cambridge*	
Year of entry	*Number of schools with acceptances*	*Percentage of schools with acceptances*	*Number of schools with acceptances*	*Percentage of schools with acceptances*
2001	4	40	5	50
2002	6	67	5	56
2003	5	56	5	56
2004	3	43	6	86
2005	3	33	5	56
2006	6	67	5	56
2007	5	56	5	56
2008	4	44	4	44
2009	5	56	5	56
2010	5	56	4	44

Notes:

1. Schools have been identified as those with a postcode in the Reading East parliamentary constituency. The figures cover schools classed by UCAS as comprehensive, grammar, independent and other secondary schools in England. Other kinds of centres have not contributed to this analysis. Only schools from which UCAS received applications in the cycle concerned have contributed to the proportion calculation. Figures do not account for students accepted to Oxford or Cambridge who applied directly, rather than via UCAS.
2. Detailed data on applications via secondary schools are only available from 2001. Data for earlier years have not been provided as the necessary reference data are not available.

Source:

UCAS

Intellectual Property

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the intellectual property review by Ian Hargreaves to be published. [53272]

Mr Davey: The Government expect to publish the report of Ian Hargreaves's Review of Intellectual Property and Growth shortly after the end of the election period on 5 May.

Music: Higher Education

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department's Higher Education White Paper will include provision for funding for specialist music institutions. [53264]

Mr Willetts: Colleges of music and conservatoires offer courses which are very popular and so we expect them to be in a strong position to attract fee income in future when most funding will follow the choices of students. Many of these institutions receive additional funding from the Funding Council to account for their small size or specialist nature, which are not recognised through the current mainstream funding formula. Whilst it is for the Funding Council to make decisions on grant allocations the Government will set out their priorities for continuing grant in the forthcoming higher education White Paper. It will be our priority that in putting the new funding system in place we do not damage in the process those institutions with a world class reputation for the arts and music.

Power Line Technology Devices

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints his Department has received in respect of power line technology devices in the last 12 months. [52883]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not received any such complaints. Enforcement powers are delegated to the Office of Communication (Ofcom) where a radio spectrum protection or management issue occurs and it is they who deal with these complaints. Since July 2008 Ofcom has investigated a total of 219 reports of interference related to power line technology, of which only one is still awaiting resolution.

RBS and Lloyds TSB

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies have been declared insolvent as a result of insolvency procedures instigated by *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland and *(b)* Lloyds TSB in each of the last six months. [52918]

Mr Davey: The available information is for company compulsory liquidations in England and Wales only. During the six months from July to December 2010 the number of cases where the insolvency was recorded as instigated by *(a)* RBS was 11 and by *(b)* Lloyds TSB was zero (that is, these companies were listed as being a petitioning creditor in the insolvency). These numbers are in the context of 2,277 new compulsory liquidations in total for the same period, and some 290 cases where the petitioner was unknown.

Figures for the last three months (January to March 2011) will not be available until after the headline official statistics have been published. The Quarter 1 2011 Statistical Release will be available from 6 May on the Insolvency Service website:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolvency-statistics.htm

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* UK Financial Investments Ltd, *(b)* RBS and *(c)* Lloyds TSB on the use of insolvency practitioners with business customers. [52945]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has not had discussions with UK Financial Investments Ltd., the Royal Bank of Scotland or Lloyds TSB on whether insolvency practitioners should be appointed in respect of business customers.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blackpool South (Mr Marsden) of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 245-46W, on regional development agencies: assets, what the original purchase price was of each asset owned by the regional development agencies in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local enterprise partnership area. [52721]

Mr Prisk: Information on the original purchase price for every regional development agency asset is not available and could only be provided, where it was not commercially sensitive, at disproportionate cost.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which regional development agency assets in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* local enterprise partnership area are named in bids to the Regional Growth Fund. [52828]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Growth Fund application form did not ask for information on regional development agency assets.

Regional Growth Fund: Sheffield

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what schemes have been submitted to the regional growth fund from the Sheffield city region; and what the status is of each scheme. [52959]

Mr Prisk: 21 bids were received from Sheffield city region in Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund. Of these, the bid from Doncaster borough council has been given a conditional offer of funding which is subject to the outcome of the due diligence process.

Research: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each *(a)* funding council and *(b)* research council paid to each university in each of the last 10 years. [53825]

Mr Willetts: Data from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) can be provided only from financial year 2005-06 and will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Earlier years' data could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The rates of funding are derived from the total HEFCE recurrent teaching grant for universities. Other sources of funding including non-HEFCE grants such as from the Training and Development Agency, Learning and Skills Council, National Health Service etc. and fee income are all excluded.

To note, the figures include all payments made via HEFCE, including where they do so on behalf of other organisations. In particular, this includes:

All funding for the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF);

Funding allocations made to English HEIs by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC);

Allocations of student support administered by HEFCE on behalf of the Department, such as Access to Learning Funds and student bursaries.

The data are only available from the Research Councils for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09. Earlier years' data could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In this period the Research Councils provided £4,955,295,000 to higher education institutions (HEIs). A full breakdown by HEI, Research Council and year will also be placed in the Libraries of the House.

As higher education is a reserved matter, it is not possible to provide details of the funding provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the Scottish Funding Council, or from the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland.

However, the publicly available HESA reports 'Finances of Higher Education Institutions' and 'Resources of HE Institutions' provide data on the income received by all UK institutions from Funding Councils and Research Councils for the last 10 years. Due to accounting methods, this will be marginally different to the payments made from Funding Councils and Research Councils to universities.

Science and Innovation Network

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the future of the Science and Innovation Network; and if he will make a statement. [53128]

Mr Willetts: The joint BIS/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Science and Innovation Network (SIN) will continue to play an important role in promoting and supporting UK science internationally. The two Departments will continue to fund SIN direct costs on a 50/50 basis with a flat cash budget. This positive outcome recognises the value of SIN in promoting UK prosperity and growth.

SIN is currently based in UK diplomatic missions in 25 countries worldwide. It influences science and innovation policies internationally, to the benefit of the UK through lobbying and the deployment of robust scientific evidence and informs UK policy making by the identification of international best practice. The Network works to bring the best of international science and innovation together with the best in the UK.

SIN works closely with UK Trade and Investment, Research Councils UK, universities and other key bodies in the UK science and innovation community in support of UK prosperity and growth. In order to keep pace with international trends SIN will extend its coverage to include strengthening science and innovation teams in Brazil and Russia and the creation of new teams in the middle east and Africa. At the same time the Government will maintain a strong SIN presence in the highest priority countries.

Small Businesses: Finance

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on trends in *(a)* levels of lending and *(b)* the cost of finance to small and medium-sized enterprises since his appointment. [54058]

Mr Prisk: The Department collects quantitative data on lending and costs of finance to SMEs from the four major lenders. These data are made publicly available and analysed on a quarterly basis by the Bank of England, through its 'Trends in Lending' publication.

More information is available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/other/monetary/trendsinlending.htm

With regard to the cost of finance, the Bank of England also publishes information via its Credit Conditions Survey, the latest of which indicates that spreads over reference rates, and fees and commission have increased slightly for small businesses.

In order to cross-reference those quantitative data, the Department also carries out regular surveys to gauge the needs and concerns of small businesses and identify the barriers that prevent them from fulfilling their potential, including the access to and cost of finance. The results of the latest surveys—Annual Small Business Survey 2010 and Business Barometer February 2011—will shortly be available on the Department's website.

StartUp Britain

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the organisers of the StartUp Britain campaign. [53119]

Mr Prisk: The Government supports Start Up Britain, a business-led campaign designed to celebrate, inspire and accelerate enterprise in the UK. The Government joined forces with big business and entrepreneurs to celebrate its launch on 28 March. Before the launch the organisers gave a presentation of their plans to the Cabinet and I met them once. On the day of the launch, both myself and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills met them again.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how he expects StartUp Britain to work with his Department to promote business start-ups in the UK. [53120]

Mr Prisk: The Start Up Britain campaign is an independent private-sector led initiative. The Government welcome this response to their ambition for an enterprise-led recovery, which complements the changes we are making to the way we deliver support to people who want to start and grow their businesses. BIS officials have arranged monthly meetings with the StartUp Britain organisers to ensure Government are well-sighted on their activities. In addition StartUp Britain is represented on a BIS working group looking at enterprise promotion.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has estimated the average sum which a new business subscribing to StartUp Britain services will be required to pay in order to receive the full introductory discount offered. [53121]

Mr Prisk: The StartUp Britain campaign is an independent, private-sector led initiative which the Government wholeheartedly support. The organisers have advised that:

> 'Over 50 private sector partners have been engaged in Start Up Britain, many of them offering discounts. While some offers require no purchase by the user (for example, free business cards or ad words), others require the user to buy something. For example, they might gain 10% off business insurance. The founders have not calculated the minimum or maximum a business would need to spend to save £1,500 and business people are encouraged to read and evaluate each offer on its own merits.'

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many new startup businesses he expects to be established as a result of the information provided through the StartUp Britain website. [53333]

Mr Prisk: The StartUp Britain campaign is an independent, private-sector led initiative. Designed to celebrate, inspire and accelerate enterprise in the UK, it has the full backing of the Government. According to the organisers, the campaign, which was launched on 28 March, aims to reach 250,000 businesses through its activities in its first year, and they will be working on further detailed key performance indicators as part of their plans for 2012. The StartUp Britain website had 108,000 visitors in its first month.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial contribution his Department has made to the creation and maintenance of the StartUp Britain website since its establishment. [53334]

Mr Prisk: The StartUp Britain website is independently financed and free to access. The Department has made no financial contribution to the creation and maintenance of the website since its establishment.

Students: Fees and Charges

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether a foundation degree followed by a BA degree is classed as an end-on course; and whether such courses will be exempt from increases in tuition fees. [53704]

Mr Willetts: Yes, for the purposes of the Education (Student Support) Regulations an "end-on course" is a degree course taken immediately—that is to say without any break other than a vacation—after a foundation degree or other lower level qualification designated for support under those regulations. Students seeking top up qualifications in this way are treated as continuing their studies, and retain the support package and tuition charge arrangements that applied on their initial course.

We will regulate to ensure that the new support and fee charging arrangements to be introduced from 2012/13 do not apply to students taking "end-on courses". This will be subject to the conditions that the student keeps the same mode of study (principally whether the course is part-time or full-time) in the second course as he or she followed in the initial course and takes the second course immediately after the initial course has completed.

Students: Loans

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the level of fraud in applications for loans made to the Student Loans Company; and if he will make a statement. [53124]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company (SLC) undertook a study of identity fraud during the financial year 2009-10. This estimated that 1.6% of applications had some element of fraud. The company subsequently introduced new income and identity fraud prevention and detection checks, using a commercial provider to deliver electronic income and identity validation services during the application cycle. This work is linked to checks currently undertaken with HM Revenue and Customs to enable enhanced verification of household income against tax payer returns.

The SLC and NHS Counter Fraud Service have both carried out fraud measurement exercises. The most recent estimates suggest that student finance related fraud, including in relation to NHS bursaries, costs £31 million a year.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of successful applicants for student loans for tuition fees in each decile of earnings in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [53126]

Mr Willetts: Comprehensive income information is not available for all tuition fee loan borrowers as tuition fee loans are not means-tested. Income details are only held for applicants who have also applied for some form of means-tested support. In addition, income details are not collected from continuing students who have indicated that their income has not changed significantly since the previous year.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the likely level of non-repayment of student loans taken out to fund university tuition fees at an average tuition fee of *(a)* £7,500, *(b)* £8,000 and *(c)* £9,000. [53127]

Mr Willetts: The level of repayment of student loans taken out to fund university tuition fees, as well as loan for living costs, will depend on many factors such as: length of course, distribution of average fee, tuition fee loan take-up, maintenance loan take-up, terms of office for fair access agreements and economic growth.

The main factors affecting (non-)repayment are the total debt on leaving higher education coupled with real earnings growth. Given these uncertainties, we estimate that the likely level of non-repayment of student loans will be around 30% of the total loan amount. The higher average loan amounts will have a slightly higher non-repayment percentage.

Supermarkets: Competition

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what powers he plans to provide to the proposed groceries code adjudicator; and if he will make a statement. [53029]

Mr Davey: The Groceries Code Adjudicator draft Bill, which will be published shortly, will set out the proposed powers for the groceries code adjudicator.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process will be used for the appointment of the proposed groceries code adjudicator; and if he will make a statement. [53030]

Mr Davey: The proposed groceries code adjudicator will be recruited through fair and open competition in line with Government guidance and good practice.

Tattooing

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the merits of the regulation of the online sale of DIY tattoo kits; and if he will make a statement. [52773]

Mr Davey: The sale of DIY tattoo kits is covered by the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (GPSR). These place a general duty on all suppliers/producers of consumer goods to supply products that are safe in normal or reasonably foreseeable use, which includes providing consumers with appropriate warnings and instructions for use (together with sell by dates, age related warnings and other relevant information in the language of the market). Local authorities as the UK market surveillance authorities enforce the GPSR and will be able to take action when they consider an absence of any of these renders a product unsafe, including online sales.

TrustMark

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings his Department has had with representatives of TrustMark in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [52855]

Mr Prisk: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Department has regular meetings with representatives of TrustMark.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Sustainable Farming

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanism her Department has established to continue the work on animal health and welfare previously conducted by the regional sustainable food and farming strategy boards. [52899]

Mr Paice: As announced in my written ministerial statement on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS, we are setting up a new Animal Health and Welfare Board for England to have responsibility for strategic animal health and welfare policy, and oversight of its delivery in relation to England. Groups within the new rural and farming network will, of course, be able to engage with Ministers on local animal health and welfare issues.

Biomass

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the forthcoming revision of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol in relation to black carbon; whether she has made an assessment of the likely effect of any revision on the combustion of biomass in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [53788]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The forthcoming revision of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Gothenburg Protocol provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of reducing black carbon as a component of particulate matter (PM) for both health and climate reasons. The proposal for an emissions ceiling for fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) in the revised protocol will help to deliver reductions in black carbon out to 2020 while further work is carried out to develop emission inventories, ambient air quality monitoring and improve our understanding of control techniques for black carbon.

To date, no assessment has been made of the likely effect of a revised protocol on the combustion of biomass in the UK. However, emissions from biomass combustion have the potential to adversely impact ambient air quality. Therefore, as announced in the Government's March 2011 document on the renewable heat incentive (RHI), emission limits for particulate matter (PM_{10}) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) will be introduced in 2012 for biomass installations below 20MWth as eligibility criteria for RHI support. For further information see:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/UK%20energy%20supply/Energy%20mix/Renewable%20energy/policy/renewableheat/1387-renewable-heat-incentive.pdf

The UK continues to fully participate in Gothenburg Protocol revision negotiations with the aim of agreeing a revised protocol that will continue the overall downward trajectory of air pollutant emissions and bring further environmental benefits across the UNECE region.

Coastal Erosion: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much will be spent on Kent's coastal defences by the Environment Agency in each of the four years commencing 2011-12. [53669][1]

Richard Benyon: Total flood defence grant in aid for sea defences in Kent in 2011-12 is £15,019.40. This includes both capital and revenue funding.

1.*[Official Report, 9 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 5MC.]*

Finance for schemes beyond 2011-12 will be determined by the reforms which will be announced in due course following our recent consultation on future funding of flood and coastal erosion risk management in England.

Departmental Manpower

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left her Department and its executive agencies since 31 January 2011. [53086]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* 97 staff, 89 full-time equivalents, left DEFRA and its agencies between 31 January and 31 March 2011.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department have been appointed on a fixed-term contract for each job title and at each grade since 7 May 2010. [53087]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The information provided in the following table covers the period 7 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 and is for the core Department plus agencies.

Grade	*Headcount*	*FTE*
AA	2	2.00
AO	9	9.00
EO	5	4.61
HEO	10	10.00
SEO	8	7.92
Grade 7	0	0.00
Grade 6	1	1.00
SCS	2	2.00
Total	37	36.53

Dogs: Tagging

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on the introduction of compulsory microchipping for dogs; [51495]

(2) what her policy is on the permanent identification of dogs. [51496]

Mr Paice: A proposal for all dogs to be compulsorily microchipped was included in DEFRA's consultation on dangerous dog legislation. DEFRA received 1,875 responses on this issue, of which 84% were in favour and 16% opposed. We are currently working with groups such as the RSPCA to look at a range of issues raised in the consultation, including microchipping.

Elephants: Conservation

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the adoption of an EU common position on the level of elephant protection provided by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. [53758]

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the adoption of an EU common position on the level of elephant protection provided by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. [54262]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA officials are playing an active role in working with the European Commission and other member states to agree the strategy to be taken in preparing for, and negotiating at, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Standing Committee, due to be held in Geneva in August, where a range of elephant-related agenda items are expected.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to discourage future legal ivory sales within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species framework. [53759]

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to discourage future legal ivory sales within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species framework. [54261]

Richard Benyon: Future ivory sales will only be legal if agreed under a decision making mechanism which, in 2010, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species agreed should be produced by 2013. The UK is working with its EU partners to develop a robust line to be taken in future discussions, as well as calling for an early start to the development of a precautionary mechanism. I hope that line can be agreed as soon as possible to signal the precautionary line that the EU intends to take.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports she has received on the killing of elephants in Chad in March and April 2011; and what support her Department is providing through international organisations to reduce the level of poaching of elephants in Central and West Africa. [53760]

Richard Benyon: No official reports of the apparent killings have been received, but we are liaising with the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) 'Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants' programme to assess the accuracy of the stories. The UK as a party to CITES supports its efforts to maintain or enhance countries' enforcement capabilities. In the second half of May, the UK will be participating in a CITES-organised rhino and elephant enforcement taskforce meeting which will exchange intelligence reports and methodologies and develop strategies to tackle the illegal trade in both animals across their ranges.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to deter UK tourists from bringing illegal ivory souvenirs into the UK. [53761]

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to deter UK tourists from bringing illegal ivory souvenirs into the UK. [54260]

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to deter UK tourists from bringing illegal ivory souvenirs into the UK. [54068]

Richard Benyon: The Directgov website, as well as those for DEFRA and the UK Border Agency, provides advice to travellers on purchasing and importing souvenirs of endangered species. It includes details of items, such as elephant ivory, whose international trade and importation into the UK is prohibited. In addition displays have been placed at major UK airports to inform travellers of the legislative requirements concerning such imports.

EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the evidence presented by the European Commission on whether the Saharawi people were consulted on their wishes in relation to the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement. [50326]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* The European Commission has not presented DEFRA with any information regarding consultation with the Saharawi people on the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement. The Commission has forwarded information which the Moroccan authorities submitted to it on how the EU funds allocated under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Morocco have been used. DEFRA is still assessing this information to see how the population of the Western Sahara have benefited.

Food: Supermarkets

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to limit the amount of fresh produce discarded by supermarkets. [54056]

Richard Benyon: Government are working with food manufacturers and retailers via the Courtauld Commitment, a responsibility deal on waste prevention. This includes an ambitious target to reduce traditional grocery product and packaging waste in the supply chain by 5% by the end of 2012 against a 2009 baseline, which covers food that reaches stores but does not get sold.

Courtauld signatories are working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme to identify and implement ways of reducing this waste; we also encourage industry to work with charities such as FareShare to ensure that good food does not go to waste.

Horse Passports

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the likely compliance with EU requirements of a regulation stipulating that horse passports should be voluntary, save that horses presenting at an abattoir should have a document listing recent veterinary medicines administered. [49375]

Mr Paice: We have no plans to make such an assessment. The current EU regulation requires all horses to be issued with a passport.

National Environment White Paper

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the publication of the *(a)* National Environment White Paper and *(b)* Water White Paper has been delayed; and if she will make a statement. [54295]

Richard Benyon: The National Ecosystems Assessment (NEA) will form a key part of the evidence base for the Natural Environment White Paper. The independent co-chairs of the NEA have, in agreement with all funders, decided that the NEA will be published in June. This will allow key stakeholders to be briefed on the study, for some additional analysis, and for further engagement with the devolved Administrations following their elections. The Natural Environment White Paper will therefore be published in June 2011, after the NEA, to allow for full inclusion of the evidence it provides.

With regard to the Water White Paper, we have been examining the issues raised in the Walker review of charging for household water and sewerage services to develop a workable policy to support households that face water affordability pressures. We launched a consultation on our proposals on 5 April 2011 and expect to publish the Water White Paper in the autumn, once we have considered the issues raised in the consultation.

Nature Conservation: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what projects in the UK have received funding from the EU LIFE+ programme. [54268]

Richard Benyon: LIFE+ currently funds 18 projects in the UK, information on which is provided in the following table. Further details of these projects can be found in a database on the European Commission's LIFE website.

Project title	*UK co-ordinator*	*Project duration*	*Total project costs (€)*	*EC co-financing (€)*
Eco-animation: a cutting edge cartoon to raise awareness on climate change and sustainable use of natural resources among European children.	Business Solutions Europa Ltd	1 January 2009 to 31 March 2011	541,092	258,371
Anglesey and Lleyn Fens: Restoring alkaline and calcareous fens within the Corsydd Mon a Llyn SACs in Wales.	Countryside Council for Wales	1 February 2009 to 31 December 2013	5,401,793	2,678,560
Regional environmental networks for energy and water.	Energy Savings Trust	1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011	1,941,702	970,850
European Pathway to Zero Waste: Demonstrating the route to zero waste to landfill via end waste protocols and building a recycling society.	Environment Agency	1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012	3,832,835	1,916,418

Project title	*UK co-ordinator*	*Project duration*	*Total project costs (€)*	*EC co-financing (€)*
Restore Rivers: Engaging, supporting and transferring knowledge for restoration in Europe.	Environment Agency	1 September 2010 to 30 September 2013	1,794,567	872,753
Improving guidance on regulations for enterprise and the environment.	Environment Agency	1 November 2010 to 31 October 2013	5,272,074	2,597,037
Electronic duty of care.	Environment Agency	10 January 2011 to18 December 2014	4,176,500	2,088,250
Green roofs against climate change. To establish a green roof code to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Groundwork Sheffield	1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011	914,213	454,905
Hydro4Life: Hydropower sustainability assessment protocol: EU assessments, monitoring, capacity development and outreach.	International Hydropower Association	1 September 2010 to 1 September 2013	1,283,637	641,818
The Aide-Ore Estuary: Securing a sustainable future for wildlife.	National Trust	1 April 2010 to 31 March 2014	1,066,290	533,145
MoorLIFE: Active blanket bog restoration in the South Pennine Moors.	Peak District National Park Authority	1 April 2010 to 30 April 2015	6,690,856	5,018,142
Reach for Polymers: Innovative instruments and methodologies to provide the European polymer industry with a solid technical background in support of REACH.	Rapra Ltd	1 January 2010 to 30 June 2012	893,260	446,130
Tackling climate change related threats to an important coastal SPA in Eastern England.	RSPB	1 January 2009 to 31 December 2012	2,009,660	1,004,830
Promoting the importance of the EU Birds Directive in conservation management on farmland.	RSPB	1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012	1,692,547	846,273
Scottish Machair: Conserving machair habitats and species in a suite of Scottish Natura sites.	RSPB	1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013	2,735,031	1,367,515
Reintroducing the great bustard Otis tarda to Southern England.	RSPB	1 September 2010 to 31 August 2015	2,182,175	1,636,631
Partnerships involving stakeholders in the Celtic Sea ecosystem.	WWF-UK	1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012	2,103,888	1,022,753
Irfon Special Area of Conservation Project.	Wye and Usk Foundation	1 January 2010 to 15 September 2013	1,626,458	813,299

Rivers: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the proportion of rivers in Lancashire that are free for use as thoroughfares for canoeists and other river users. [50974]

Richard Benyon: It is estimated that about 4.4% of rivers in Lancashire have formal access for canoeing. This information is the best of our knowledge from research carried out by the University of Brighton in 2009-10 on behalf of the Environment Agency. It does not distinguish between stretches of river which may or may not be navigable for canoeists.

Salmon: Farms

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements her Department has put in place in respect of the frequency of reporting of levels of sea lice infestation by salmon farms. [52900]

Richard Benyon: Salmon farming is a devolved matter for the Scottish Government. As there is no saltwater farming of salmon in England, there are no requirements to monitor, or report, sea lice levels at such sites.

Sustainable Farming

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms exist for her Department to obtain independent advice about rural issues in the English regions following the winding up of the sustainable food and farming strategy boards. [52898]

Mr Paice: I recently announced our proposals for a network of new non-statutory groups representing rural interests, to give advice directly to Ministers on farming, food and rural issues. The groups will provide a direct line of communication to provide DEFRA Ministers with information and concerns from local rural and farming communities. We are calling for people from farming, food and rural affairs backgrounds to volunteer to be part of the local networks. Further information on the new network can be obtained from:

http://www.rdpenetwork.org.uk/news-and-publications/network-news/rural-and-farming-network

Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place for implementation of policies across the land-based sector following the abolition of the Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy. [52707]

Mr Paice: The new framework for delivery of DEFRA policies is set out in the Department's business plan. This includes the vision, priorities, actions and information strategy. The three key priority areas outlined in the plan are to:

Support British farming and encourage sustainable food production.

Enhance the environment and biodiversity to improve quality of life.

Support a strong and sustainable green economy, resilient to climate change.

Policies relating to the land-based sector will contribute to the implementation of all three priorities.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings she held with the Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy regional chairman before taking the decision to abolish the Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy. [52708]

Mr Paice: The Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy Regional Groups were funded until the end of March this year. Their chairmen met with senior DEFRA officials in February to discuss how they could contribute to developing new arrangements, under a Big Society approach, for self-supporting local groups that will be able to give advice directly to Ministers on farming, food and rural issues.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Accountability: Police

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department to discuss the regulation of elections for directly-elected police and crime commissioners under the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. [53232]

Mr Harper: My officials have been working closely with their counterparts at the Home Department on the provisions which will be required in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill and accompanying legislation to allow for the conduct and regulation of elections for directly-elected police and crime commissioners. This work is designed to ensure that a consistent approach is taken for the regulation and conduct of statutory elections across the UK.

Mayors

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to discuss the regulation of referendums for directly-elected mayors under the provisions of the Localism Bill. [53233]

Mr Harper: My officials are in regular contact with their counterparts at the Department for Communities and Local Government on the provisions which will be required in the Localism Bill and accompanying legislation to allow for the conduct and regulation of referendums for directly-elected mayors. This communication is designed to ensure that a consistent approach is taken for the regulation and conduct of statutory elections and referendums across the UK.

CABINET OFFICE

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 871-2W, on voluntary organisations, how his Department plans to measure the effectiveness of its initiative to increase levels of giving. [52503]

Mr Hurd: Cabinet Office programmes aimed at increasing levels of giving are currently being developed, and consideration will be given on how to measure effectiveness of these programmes. The Cabinet Office will also continue to draw on independent analysis from external resources for information on trends in giving.

Charities: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many organisations have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been awarded an allocation from the Transition Fund in (i) Chatham and Aylesford constituency, (ii) Medway constituency, (iii) Tonbridge and Malling constituency and (iv) Kent. [52412]

Mr Hurd: There were no applications to the Transition Fund from Chatham and Aylesford or Medway. Two applications were received from organisations in Tonbridge and Malling. Of these one organisation has already received an award and the other has received an offer. There were 24 applications from organisations in Kent. Of these, two of have been awarded grants and 11 have received an offer.

Departmental Stationery

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of paper and office supplies used in 10 Downing street were from *(a)* renewable, *(b)* recycled or *(c)* sustainable sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [51705]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office, and the answer provided is therefore for the whole of the Cabinet Office.

In line with Cabinet Office policy, all paper purchased for use in multi-function devices and printers is 100% recycled. During the period January 2011 to March 2011, 15.3% of spend on all other office supplies purchased by the Cabinet Office, including pens, rulers and staplers, was defined as being 'sustainable'. During the same period last year 14.15% of office supplies purchased by the Cabinet Office was defined as being 'sustainable'.

Low Pay

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men had earnings below the lower earnings limit in each of the last five years. [53842]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated April 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) women and (b) men had earnings below the lower earnings limit in each year of the last five years. (53842)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentage of employees in that category. Estimates are for single jobs and not for total employment earnings.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

I attach a table showing the percentage of female and male UK employees earning below the lower earnings limit for the years 2006-2010.

Percentage of United Kingdom employee jobs[1] earning below the lower earnings limit

	Lower earnings limit (£ per week)	All employees		Full-time employees		Part-time employees	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2006	84	3.2	10.0	<0.1	<0.1	28.4	24.0
2007	87	3.1	9.9	<0.1	<0.1	27.3	23.5
2008	90	3.3	10.2	<0.1	<0.1	28.0	24.4
2009	95	3.6	10.5	<0.1	<0.1	29.0	24.8
2010	97	3.9	10.6	<0.1	<0.1	30.2	24.9

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence. As at April each year.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Public Data Corporation

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects the proposed Public Data Corporation to be established; and if he will make a statement. [54252]

Mr Maude: We are continuing to work on proposals for a Public Data Corporation which achieve all the objectives which were initially set out on 12 January 2011 and then updated at Budget. Our intent remains to put in place a coherent data policy framework by autumn 2011. We are also considering the merits of machinery of government changes to facilitate the development of a Public Data Corporation (PDC) through a sponsoring department and the subsequent establishment of a PDC Shadow Board.

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which *(a)* Government organisations, *(b)* datasets and *(c)* licensing arrangements he expects to come within the remit of the proposed Public Data Corporation. [54253]

Mr Maude: There are many organisations in the public sector which hold and manage information. Not all organisations holding significant public sector information will be suitable for inclusion within the Public Data Corporation. Important considerations will be how and to what extent the information is made available to its customers (other parts of Government, businesses and citizens), and whether products and services form part of the organisation's 'public task' or whether they are a by product in the organisation's business model. Final decisions on inclusion of bodies and datasets will be taken in light of this work. Until decisions are taken it would be premature to announce which bodies may be involved.

While the majority of public sector information will be available under the Open Government License (OGL), there are some instances where this is not possible e.g. where third party intellectual property rights are present, or where charges are required to ensure the sustainability and quality of the data. Work over the coming months will focus on harmonising and simplifying licensing arrangements that can be used as a basis for licensing where the OGL is not appropriate.

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* activities will be of the proposed Public Data Corporation. [54254]

Mr Maude: This initiative is about bringing together some of our most valuable public sector information and the organisations that collect, hold and manage that information, in order to deliver multiple benefits to the public, business, the public purse, and Government.

The individual organisations that are taken within the Public Data Corporation will continue to carry out their current functions, eg collecting and maintaining data, producing information, providing value-added services. What the Public Data Corporation offers is the opportunity to create a centre of excellence for the collecting, holding and managing of different organisations' data. Other benefits include:

Adopting a more consistent approach towards access to and accessibility of public sector information;

creating more opportunities for citizens, social enterprises and businesses to use public sector data in new and innovative ways;

identifying how data Government already hold can be used more effectively to provide better and cheaper public services; and

creating more certainty and predictability—encouraging businesses to invest in and develop new and innovative products and applications based on data. It will also provide opportunities for private investment in the corporation, reinforcing and accelerating the development of these world class assets and their contribution to the knowledge economy.

Third Sector: Finance

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Office for Civil Society is taking to prevent any disproportionate negative effects on black and minority ethnic organisations in the selection of its strategic partners. [52982]

Mr Hurd: The Office for Civil Society's (OCS's) Strategic Partners are required to fully represent black and minority ethnic organisations.

JUSTICE

First Tier Tax Tribunal

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases went to the first tier tax tribunal or its predecessor in each year from 2005 to 2010; and what the outcome of the tribunal process was in those cases. [52904]

Mr Djanogly: The First-tier Tax Chamber was created in April 2009. Prior to that date, tax appeals were heard by the VAT and Duties Tribunal, the Special Commissioners of Income Tax and the General Commissioners of Income Tax. The number of appeals received by the VAT and Duties Tribunal and the Special Commissioners of Income Tax from 2004-05 is in the following table:

Tax appeal receipts

Financial year	VAT and duties	Special Commissioners of Income Tax
2004-05	3,900	210
2005-06	2,700	490
2006-07	3,500	300
2007-08	3,900	260

Tax appeal receipts

Financial year	*VAT and duties*	*Special Commissioners of Income Tax*
2008-09	5,400	420

Source:
Annual Statistics for Tribunals Service (numbers rounded)

No central data were collected by Government on the number of appeals dealt with by the General Commissioners of Income Tax. As part of the preparations for the implementation of the First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber), data were collated and agreed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Tribunals Service for the year 2006-07. During that year, it was estimated that 9,500 cases were heard before the General Commissioners. No other data are available for the years prior to April 2009.

Receipts by the First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber) since 2009 are given in the following table:

First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber)

Financial year	*Receipts*
2009-10	10,400
2010-11[1]	9,000

[1] First three quarters' data from quarterly statistics publication; fourth quarter is provisional pending quarter 4 publication

The tribunal's database does not have the facility to extract the outcome of appeals. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost by checking individual records of all appeals.

Courts: Closures

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has carried out an equality impact assessment of the effect of proposed court closures on *(a)* women and *(b)* children under 16 years. [53763]

Mr Djanogly: Equality impact assessments were produced to accompany the consultation response papers on the provision of court services in each of the former HM Courts Service Areas. The response papers, impact assessments and equality impact assessments are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

> http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations-closed-with-response.htm

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of court closures on the time taken to *(a)* initiate and *(b)* complete in care proceedings in England and Wales. [53765]

Mr Djanogly: The impact assessments accompanying the consultation response papers assume that court estate rationalisation does not impact on service delivery. As the volume of work is not expected to rise or fall as a result of estate rationalisation and there is sufficient capacity at recipient courts to undertake work from closing courts, it is not anticipated that timeliness of care proceedings will be significantly affected.

The majority of courts that will close are generally the smallest magistrates courts, which will have very low volumes, if any, of family business. HM Courts and Tribunals Service will carefully manage the transfer of workload and administration using the detailed implementation plans that are being developed for each court that is closed.

Crime

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* convictions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* fixed penalty notices there have been in respect of people arrested for speeding offences in Suffolk (i) in total and (ii) on (A) the A143 and (B) the A14 in each year since 1997. [53458]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for speeding offences in Suffolk police force area for the years 1997 to 2009 (latest available) is in table 1.

Cautions for motoring are not collated centrally.

Court proceedings data for 2010 will be available on 26 May 2011.

It is not possible to identify from data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice those convictions or cautions which occurred in the A143 or A14. This information will only be held on individual court file records.

Arrests data are held by the Home Office who provided the following information:

> Data on arrests are published in chapter one of the annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin Police Powers and Procedures. Arrests data collected are not broken down beyond offence groups such as "violence against the person" or "sexual offences" and specific offences such as speeding offences are unavailable.

Data on the number of Fixed Penalty notices issued for the offence of speeding in Suffolk police force area for the years 1997 to 2009 are in table 2.

It is not possible from data held by the Home Office to identify those fixed penalty notices that have arisen as a result of an arrest. Neither is it possible to identify those fixed penalty notices which occurred in the A143 or A14 area as this information is not held centrally, and will only be held on police file records.

Table 1: Number of persons found guilty at all courts for speeding offences in Suffolk police force area, from 1997 to 2009[1,2,3]

Offence class 816

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Found guilty	990	1,380	1,581	1,166	1,184	1,239	734	1,775	3,156	2,965	3,300	3,595	3,499

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2 The number of Fixed Penalty notices issued for the offence of speeding in Suffolk police force area for the years 1997 to 2009

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Fixed Penalty Notice	7,271	12,640	18,088	12,596	12,416	9,477	16,606	40,847	40,029	34,442	30,378	34,678	42,055

Source:
Police Personnel, Powers and Procedures, Home Office

Crime: Nature Conservation

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for offences under wildlife protection legislation in each criminal justice area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [53497]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for wildlife related offences, by police force area in England and Wales, 2009 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for wildlife related offences, by police force area 2009[1,2,3]

Police force area	*Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981[4]*	*Protection of Badgers Act 1992*	*Deer Act 1991*	*Control of Trade in Endangered (Enforcement) Species Regulation 1997*	*Conservation of Seals Act 1970*	*Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cambridgeshire	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	2	5	—	1	—	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	2	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	3	2	1	—	—	—
Dorset	1	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	1	1	—	—	7	—
Gloucestershire	—	1	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	1	—	—	—	1	—
Hampshire	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	1	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	1	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	2	—	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	1	—		—	—	1
Merseyside	1	1	—	—	—	1
Metropolitan Police	2	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	2	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	2	—	—	—	4	—
Nottinghamshire	1	2	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	1	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	1	3	1	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	1	1	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	1
Thames Valley	1	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	2	2	—	1	—	—
West Midlands	—	1	—	—	—	1
West Yorkshire	3	—	—	—	1	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	1	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	1	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	1	1	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	8	—	—	1	—

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for wildlife related offences, by police force area 2009[1,2,3]

Police force area	*Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*[4]	*Protection of Badgers Act 1992*	*Deer Act 1991*	*Control of Trade in Endangered (Enforcement) Species Regulation 1997*	*Conservation of Seals Act 1970*	*Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996*
England and Wales	33	30	2	3	15	5

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Only those forces are shown where data have been reported.

[4] Excludes offence "Protection of wild plants" as it forms part of a miscellaneous code which cannot be identified separately.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53808]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice estate occupies around 2,140 properties as of September 2010, the most recent period for which we have verified data. This consists of freehold, leasehold premises and other holdings used under a memorandum of terms of occupancy. To disaggregate this figure and to give the name and address for each freehold property would incur disproportionate cost. However, this information will be updated and available on the Cabinet Office website in the near future.

The total number of properties occupied consists of:

135 prisons;

624 courts;

680 probation premises;

49 tribunal premises;

189 other administrative buildings;

approximately 270 residential premises (prison officer accommodation, judges lodgings, etc.); and

approximately 200 other properties (car parks, storage, etc).

The market value of assets is commercially confidential.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52815]

Mr Djanogly: The Department does not currently run a scheme to offer work experience placement and internships to students so there is no published guidance available on this.

Advice and guidance for people wishing to volunteer within the field of justice is provided on DirectGov. This includes information on opportunities such as becoming a magistrate, supporting victims and witnesses of crime, and working with young offenders.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53212]

Mr Djanogly: Five UK students were offered placements through the Cabinet Office Summer Development Programme in 2010. None of these were from Bassetlaw constituency. No other internships have been offered to students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency since 8 May, 2010.

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers convicted of driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs in each police authority area in the East of England in each year since 2009 had previous convictions for the same offence. [53377]

Mr Blunt: The figures requested are provided in the table, for offenders sentenced in 2009. The figures are on the same basis and from the same data set used for Table 6.4 of 'Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales, 2009' which can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

and equivalent criminal history statistics for 2010 will be published on 26 May 2011.

Offenders sentenced in 2009 in the East of England for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs[1] *and the number with a previous conviction or caution for an offence of this kind by police force area*

	Number of offenders convicted and sentenced for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs	*Number of these offenders with a previous conviction or caution for an offence of this kind*	*Percentage of these offenders with a previous conviction or caution for an offence of this kind*
Bedfordshire	697	177	25.4
Cambridgeshire	857	174	20.3
Essex	2,281	545	23.9
Hertfordshire	1,470	340	23.1
Norfolk	854	228	26.7
Suffolk	769	156	20.3

1. Including offences of failing to provide a specimen of blood or breath

2. The figures relate to occasions when an offender was sentenced in 2009 when the primary offence related to driving under the influence of drink or drugs, and to the number of these offenders who at that time had at least one previous conviction or caution for one of these offences.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many Employment and Support Allowance appeals were adjourned in each year since October 2008; what proportion of the total number of appeals this represented for each year since October 2008; and how many of these adjourned appeals in each year since October 2008 were classified in each category; [53591]

(2) what definitions the Tribunals Service uses of data relating to the adjournment of hearings for Employment and Support Allowance appeals that are *(a)* Tribunal not ready to proceed, *(b)* Administrators not ready to proceed, *(c)* Applicant not ready to proceeds and, *(d)* First tier agency not ready to proceed. [53592]

Mr Djanogly: The number of employment and support allowance (ESA) appeals received and adjourned in each year since October 2008, together with a breakdown of the adjourned appeals by category is set out in the following two tables:

Number of ESA appeals adjourned[1]

	October 2008-March 2009[2]	*April 2009-March 2010*	*April 2010-February 2011*[3]
Number of ESA appeals received[4]	1,320	127,000	178,000
Number of ESA appeals listed for hearing	33	63,400	138,000
Number of ESA appeals adjourned[5]	6	8,100	16,900
Percentage of appeals received to appeals adjourned	0.5	6.4	9.5
Percentage of appeals listed to appeals adjourned	18.1	12.8	12.2

Adjournment reasons as recorded at hearing[6]

	October 2008-March 2009[7]	*April 2009-March 2010*	*April 2010-February 2011*
Tribunal not ready to proceed	4	5,100	11,000
Administrators not ready to proceed	2	440	850
Applicant not ready to proceed	0	2,500	4,700
First tier agency not ready to proceed	0	90	360

[1] This case data has been rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 with the exception of the 2008-9 data when the numbers are too low for this rounding protocol to apply.
[2] The first ESA appeals were received by Tribunal Service (TS) in January 2009.
[3] SSCS data has been published to 28 February 2011.
[4] This is all ESA appeals received by TS in the period. They will not all proceed to a hearing.
[5] This is all the case hearings adjourned in the period. A case may be adjourned more than once.
[6] The adjournment reason is determined by the Tribunal judge adjourning the case hearing.
[7] The first ESA appeals were received by TS in January 2009.

There are four adjournment categories used in Social Security and Child Support appeal tribunals and the adjourning judge determines the most appropriate adjournment category for the case being dealt with (cases can be adjourned for more than one reason). The four categories, together with some examples of the circumstances under which these categories may be used, are as follows:

Tribunal not ready to proceed

Where the tribunal requires additional evidence.

Where an applicant was known to a tribunal panel member.

Administrators not ready to proceed

Failure by administrative staff to provide sufficient notice of the appeal hearing.

Failure to observe a previous direction given by a judge.

Arrangement of incorrect panel composition.

Applicant not ready to proceed

Where the applicant requests more time to submit evidence or appoint a representative.

The applicant is unable, due to medical or other reasons, to continue with the hearing.

First-tier agency not ready to proceed

The submission from the agency is incomplete/defective or illegible.

The agency may seek more time to consider evidence handed in on the day.

Judiciary

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of a case heard by *(a)* a magistrate and *(b)* a district judge in the latest period for which figures are available. [53043]

Mr Djanogly: Based on a simple analysis of the number of criminal cases completed and the related judicial sitting hours for magistrates courts in 2009-10, the average court costs for cases heard by a bench of magistrates or a district judge are £132 and £196 respectively. Costs comprise all judicial and administrative costs directly incurred by magistrates courts, but, inter alia, exclude area and central overheads.

It has not been possible to evaluate meaningful statistics relating to average costs for the Legal Service Commission, Crown Prosecution Services and other public sector prosecution costs associated with magistrates courts' cases. Therefore the costs provided above relate entirely to direct HM Courts Service operational costs only.

The Ministry of Justice has commissioned independent research to consider variations in the approaches of magistrates and district judges dealing with criminal cases in magistrates courts. The outcome of the research will strengthen the evidence base and better inform policy decisions relating to the deployment of judicial resource across magistrates courts in England and Wales.

Legal Aid

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents in Lincoln constituency were granted in each of the last five years. [53284]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is currently collating its data relating to Lincoln constituency. I will write to my hon. Friend once the information has been verified and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the retention of legal aid in private family law proceedings for parties assessed as unsuitable for mediation where the issue of domestic violence does not arise. [52776]

Mr Djanogly: The Government, in their consultation paper 'Proposals for the reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales', set out their proposals to remove legal aid for private family law cases, except where domestic violence is present, or for a child who has been made a party to the proceedings, or for international child abduction cases. The consultation closed on 14 February. A number of responses raised the issue of other cases that might be unsuitable for mediation. We are considering all the responses, and expect to publish the Government's response to the consultation shortly.

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects on law firms specialising in clinical negligence cases of his planned reduction in the legal aid budget. [53216]

Mr Djanogly: Both impact assessments and equality impact assessments were published alongside the consultation paper. These detail anticipated impacts on both providers and users of legally aided services. Revised assessments will be published alongside the Government's response to consultation.

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the funding of disbursements in *(a)* clinical negligence, *(b)* family law and *(c)* child care cases after such cases are withdrawn from the scope of legal aid. [53217]

Mr Djanogly: As announced in 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response' (Cm 8041, March 2011), the Government intend to permit the recoverability of after the event insurance premiums limited to the costs of expert reports in clinical negligence claims. The details will be set out in regulations in due course.

The consultation paper 'Proposals for the reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales' included proposals to withdraw legal aid from clinical negligence and private law family proceedings, but to retain legal aid for public law family proceedings (such as care and supervision proceedings). The Government are currently considering responses to the consultation, and expect to publish their response shortly. Where the Government decide to remove legal aid for certain types of proceedings, this will include removing funding for disbursements.

Legal Aid: Lone Parents

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on *(a)* the number and proportion of recipients of legal aid who are single parents and *(b)* the matters in respect of which single parents receive legal aid. [52679]

Mr Djanogly: Neither my Department nor the Legal Services Commission holds data on whether applicants for legal aid are single parents.

Long-term Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate has been made of the average length of time served by people sentenced to a life term in prison. [53004]

Mr Blunt: The following table taken from Offender Management annual table A3.5 published 28 April 2011:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quartlery.htm

shows the number of life sentenced prisoners first released during 2010, and their average time served at the point of first release. The average time served by mandatory lifers has increased considerably from around nine years in the late 1970s to 16 years in 2010.

	Number released	*Average time served (years)*
Mandatory lifers	115	16
Other lifers	46	11

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Long-term Prisoners: Deportation

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which court cases the court has considered making a declaration of incompatibility under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 after finding a provision of legislation incompatible with a Convention right contained in that Act, but has decided not to make such a declaration; which provision of legislation was found to be incompatible with which Convention right in each such case; what the response of the Government was to each such finding; and which of those judgements are final. [52689]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information requested is not collected and could not be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Magistrates: Expenses

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account he took of trends in the price of motor fuel in making his proposals for changes to travel expenses payable to voluntary magistrates. [53041]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service is in discussion with the Magistrates Association and the National Bench Chairs' Forum about possible changes to the travel and subsistence allowances that magistrates receive in the course of their judicial work. Although no decisions have been taken, the price of motor fuel and other relevant factors are part of the discussion.

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much on average a voluntary magistrate claimed in expenses for one day's court sitting in the latest period for which figures are available. [53042]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service does not hold the specific information on a daily basis, however, based on provisional data, the total cost of expenses claimed by Justices of the Peace for the financial year ending 31 March 2011, was around £17 million. This approximates to an average of £767 per claimant, per annum.

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on his proposals for changes to the travel and subsistence expenses for voluntary magistrates. [53044]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service is in discussion with the Magistrates Association and the National Bench Chairs' Forum about possible changes to the travel and subsistence allowances that magistrates receive in the course of their judicial work. No decisions have been made.

Prison: Drugs

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of corruption involving prison officers which involved illegal drugs there were in each of the last five years. [53427]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) takes the issue of staff corruption seriously and has given a firm commitment to work in partnership with the police to detect, disrupt and deter all forms of corruption affecting prisons, including that involving illegal drugs.

Our records indicate that since January 2008 (to 31 March) there have been 31 convictions for drug related offences of persons working in prisons, 15 of these convictions relate to prison officers. Clearly, in addition to the possibility of criminal proceedings where appropriate, staff corruption, if proved, will amount to a breach of conduct and discipline procedures and internal disciplinary action can be taken. Our records indicate that during the same time frame there have been a total of eight dismissals for drug-related matters of directly employed staff, five of which relate to prison officers. The following table provides a yearly breakdown of the available data held centrally since 2007:

	Drug related convictions of prison officers	*Drug related dismissals of prison officers*
2008-09	6	2
2009-10	6	2
2010-11	2	1
2011-12	1	0

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. These figures do not include ongoing operations or investigations where it would be inappropriate to provide operationally sensitive data, or other management action taken in line with HR procedures or where an individual has resigned from employment.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoner on prisoner and *(b)* prisoner on officer assaults were recorded in each prison in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [53881]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service publishes annual Safety in Custody statistics on the Ministry of Justice website. Statistics on prisoner on prisoner and prisoner on officer assaults for 2000 to 2009 can be found at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/safety-in-custody.htm

Statistics for 2010 are currently being verified for publication later this year.

Reoffenders

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the differences in reconviction rates in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Denmark; and if he will make a statement. [52766]

Mr Blunt: This Ministry of Justice has conducted a pilot study comparing reoffending rates from three countries, England and Wales, Scotland and the Netherlands to assess whether national reoffending data can be compared.

The study showed that a significant part of the difference in reoffending rates between countries in this pilot was due to the different measurement techniques, rather than any real difference in the level of reoffending with particular groups of offenders. Therefore, it is important to understand and take into account underlying differences in the particular ways reoffending rates are calculated before any meaningful comparisons between countries can be made, and when making use of international evidence on what works to reduce reoffending.

The findings are in the Compendium of Re-offending Statistics 2010, which is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/compendium-reoffending.htm

No comparisons have been made with Denmark, but I have commissioned work to look into the feasibility of doing this in the future.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what visits Ministers in his Department have made to Denmark on the subject of reconviction rates in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [52767]

Mr Blunt: No Ministers in my Department have visited Denmark on the subject of reconviction rates since 2005.

In the margins of the October 2010 EU Council Justice and Home Affairs Committee, the Secretary of State briefly discussed the general criminal justice agenda in the UK and Denmark with his Danish counterpart. Both agreed that their priorities were aligned and that dialogue between their Departments should continue as policy developed.

Shoplifting

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of shoplifting led to *(a)* a caution and *(b)* a conviction resulting in (i) probation and (ii) a custodial sentence in each parliamentary constituency in the East of England in each year since 2006. [53380]

Mr Blunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 560W, for the number of offenders cautioned, found guilty and sentenced to a community rehabilitation order, community order, suspended sentence and immediate custody at all courts for 'stealing from shops and stalls' (shoplifting), in the East of England region, 1999 to 2009.

For the number of offenders found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody for shoplifting at all courts in the East of England, 1997 to 1998 please see the following table.

Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by parliamentary constituency or local authority area.

Please note that court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of offenders found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody for 'Shoplifting'[1] at all courts, East of England Region 1997-98

	1997		1998	
Region/ Police force area	Found guilty	Immediate Custody	Found guilty	Immediate Custody
Bedfordshire	610	126	717	165
Cambridgeshire	502	35	594	56
Essex	1,637	316	1,714	360
Hertfordshire	576	44	611	73
Norfolk	713	65	928	80
Suffolk	586	54	681	98
East of England Region	4,624	640	5,245	832

[1] Stealing from 'shops and stalls' (shoplifting) is an offence under Theft Act 1968, section 1.

Notes:

1. These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics - Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Social Security Benefits: Tribunals

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many benefits tribunals took place in each year since 1997. [53179]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service only holds information on the number of First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support) hearings from 2007. Before this time appeals were administered by the Appeals Service, within the Department for Work and Pensions, prior to the formation of the Tribunals Service in 2006.

The following table provides information on hearings for each calendar year from 2007 up to 28 February 2011:

Number of hearings

Calendar year	Total hearings
2007[1]	143,768
2008	196,627
2009	231,367
2010	302,398
2011[2]	58,209

[1] The 2007 data may be incomplete for the period 19 January to 31 March 2007 as in late 2006 the Appeals Service migrated its case data over to a new IT system.

[2] Only includes data for January and February 2011.

The above figures include all appeals that required a hearing, including those where the appeal was adjourned and no decision was taken. The data have been taken from Management Information reports, and may be subject to revision.

Tribunals: Manpower

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an estimate of the likely required change in staffing levels for work relating to benefit tribunals in the comprehensive spending review period. [52893]

Mr Djanogly: Our current assessment is that at least 113 additional administrative staff will be required to support this work during the period 2011-12, together with significant additional funding to cover judicial and other non-staff costs. Recruitment of additional staff on fixed-term contracts is already under way. We will revisit the resource requirements for the later years of the spending review at a later date.

Young Offenders

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders are registered; how many offences have been recorded where the offender was a persistent young offender in each year since 2008; and what proportion of total offences in each police force area in England and Wales this represents. [53370]

Mr Blunt: There is no register of persistent young offenders and centrally available data do not provide the information requested.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17-year-olds were on remand in each police authority area in each year since

2005; and how many went on to serve a prison sentence for (i) the same and (ii) a different offence. [53374]

Mr Blunt: The data required to answer this question are currently being extracted and compiled. I will write to my hon. Friend as soon as they are available. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded in respect of retailers selling alcohol to those aged under 18 years in each year since 2006; how many police cautions were issued; and what the average fine levied was. [53439]

James Brokenshire: The number of offences for underage sales is not held centrally by the Home Office. The number of cautions and prosecutions for offences relating to underage sales, England and Wales, 2006 to 2009 (latest available) is shown in table 1.

Average fine amounts for offences relating to underage sales, England and Wales, 2006 to 2009 (latest available) is shown in table 2.

The Ministry of Justice plans to publish court proceedings data for 2010 on 26 May 2011.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts at all courts for underage sales, England and Wales, 2005-09[1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

		Cautioned					*Proceeded against*				
Offence code	*Description*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
	Underage sales										
14364	Individual aged under 18 knowingly consuming alcohol	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	2
14379	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	1	36	33	28	38	29	440	620	401	419
14398	Persistently selling alcohol to children	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	4
14203	Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	97	22	7	1	4	1,044	741	63	31	2
14380	Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18	0	0	2	1	1	0	17	10	19	5
14352	Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18	4	3	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] The court proceedings statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Average fine[1] *imposed for underage sales offences, England and Wales, 2005-09*[2] [3]

		Average fine (£)[1]				
Offence code	*Description*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
	Underage sales					
14384	Individual aged under 18 knowingly consuming alcohol	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*
14379	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	200	250	250	250	200
14398	Persistently selling alcohol to children	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*
14203	Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	200	250	250	300	*
14380	Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18	n/a	200	325	350	*
14352	Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18	200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* = Figure suppressed as number too small to give meaningful average.
n/a = Not applicable

[1] Median fine amount.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Animal Experiments

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make representations to the European Commission to bring forward proposals for the review of European Directive 2010/63/EU to include binding targets for the replacement of animals in scientific research. [53688]

Lynne Featherstone: Article 58 of European Directive 2010/63/EU requires the European Commission to review the Directive by 10 November 2017 taking into account advancements in the development of alternative methods not entailing the use of animals, in particular of non-human primates, and to propose amendments, where appropriate.

The United Kingdom contribution to the review will be considered at the appropriate time when consulted by the Commission.

Asylum

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of asylum seekers who were refused asylum on their original claim did not appeal the refusal decision in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [53923]

Damian Green: Information on the outcome of an annual cohort of asylum applications is available in Main Table 2.7 of Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2009, published in August 2010. This publication is available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics

Table 2.7 shows the latest status of decisions on applications made in each year as at May 2010. Data for 2010 and updates for previous years will be available in August 2011.

The number of initial decisions, appeals lodged, and cases that were not appealed in 2008 and 2009 are provided in the following table.

Cohort analysis of applications for asylum, excluding dependants, made 2008 to 2009, initial decisions and appeals lodged, as at May 2010[1]

	Principal applicants	
	2008	*2009*[3]
Initial decisions		
of which: initial decisions by Home Office		
Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	4,110	3,075
Not recognised as a refugee but granted, HP or DL	2,380	2,160
Refused asylum, HP or DL	14,615	14,940
Appeals lodged[2]	10,960	11,955
Initial decisions that have not been appealed[2]	6,030	5,145

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five.
[2] Appeals are lodged against initial decisions of Humanitarian Protection (HP), Discretionary Leave (DL), or refusals of asylum, HP or DL.
[3] Provisional figures.

The number of appeals lodged and initial decisions that have not been appealed includes cases where the initial decision was to grant Humanitarian Protection (HP) or Discretionary Leave (DL), as well as those refused asylum, HP or DL. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to provide a proportion in this instance.

Crimes of Violence

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of offences of causing actual bodily harm police cautions were issued in each of the last five years; and in what proportion of such cases the offence was the first offence recorded by the offender. [53488]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The figures requested are provided in the following tables for adult offenders cautioned and for juvenile offenders given reprimands or warnings, the equivalent to adult cautions, between 2005 and 2009. Figures for the criminal history of offenders receiving cautions, reprimands or warnings during 2010 will be published on 26 May 2011.

Number of cautions given to adult offenders for the offence of causing actual bodily harm as recorded on the Police National Computer, and the number for which this was the offender's first offence, 2005-09, England and Wales

		Cautions for ABH where offender had no previous convictions or cautions	
	Number of cautions for ABH	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005	15,083	8,767	58.1
2006	17,424	9,324	53.5
2007	15,431	7,936	51.4
2008	11,898	5,941	49.9
2009	10,084	5,007	49.7

Number of reprimands and warnings given to juvenile offenders for the offence of causing actual bodily harm as recorded on the Police National Computer, and the number for which this was the offender's first offence, 2005-09, England and Wales

		Reprimands and warnings for ABH where offender had no previous convictions, reprimands or warnings	
	Number of reprimands and warnings for ABH	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005	8,872	6,674	75.2
2006	8,549	6,204	72.6
2007	6,889	4,781	69.4
2008	5,086	3,473	68.3
2009	4,100	2,886	70.4

Note:
These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by her Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53810]

Damian Green: The detail of properties owned by the Department is set out in the following table:

Building name	*Address*	*Book value at 31 March 2011 (£)*
Yarl's Wood Removal Centre	Clapham Bedfordshire	35,996,591
Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre	West Drayton Middlesex	55,994,192
Harmondsworth Removal Centre	West Drayton Middlesex	81,560,975
Dungavel House Removal Centre	South Lanarkshire	4,607,607
Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre	Oxford Oxfordshire	6,193,918
Langhurst House	Horsham West Sussex	1,720,000
Sandridge	St Albans Herts	3,435,000

Departmental Communications

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies; what services can be accessed by calling each of them; and what revenue was received from each number in each year since 1997. [53512]

Damian Green: The information requested is as follows:

Home Office HQ

The Home Office HQ uses two non-geographic telephone numbers and 11 fax lines, none of which are revenue generating, as follows:

Publications Ordering Line

Action Line—Advice to help practitioners take effective action to tackle antisocial behaviour

Publications Ordering Line (Fax)

Private Office to the Home Secretary (Fax)

Private Office to Baroness Neville-Jones (Fax)

Private Office to James Brokenshire (Fax)

Private Office to Damian Green (Fax)

Private Office to Nick Herbert (Fax)

Private Office to Lynne Featherstone (Fax)

Ministers Parliamentary Team (Fax)

Special Advisers (Fax)

Private Office Management Support Unit (Fax)

Permanent Secretary's Office (Fax)

UK Border Agency

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) uses five non-geographic telephone numbers. These are used by the various contact centres to help customers, sponsors and employers on a wide range of topics. UKBA does not generate any revenue from any of these numbers. Details of services that can be accessed through these numbers are as follows:

MPs' enquiry line (MPEL): Dedicated service to MPs and their offices dealing with immigration enquiries;

Sponsorship and employers' helpline;

Information for employers and education providers about sponsorship under the points-based system;

A service to employers who want to verify the entitlement to work for people who are awaiting the outcome of an application made to the Home Office; and

Advice to employers about preventing illegal working, and particularly about carrying out the document checks necessary to establish a statutory excuse against liability to pay a civil penalty.

Nationality Contact Centre

Answers questions on British nationality law including:

What British citizenship is;

The different types of British nationality;

The requirements you need to meet to become a British citizen;

How to make an application;

The cost of making an application;

The nationality checking service;

Where completed application forms should be sent;

The current waiting times for nationality applications; and

Citizenship ceremonies.

EEA residency enquiries

European enquiries contact centre:

Provides information about the European regulations for nationals of the European economic area (EEA) or Switzerland, or a member of an EEA or Swiss national's family.

Immigration enquiry bureau

Public Enquiry Office appointment booking service;

Return of Documents request service;

Progress update service for current applicants;

General enquiries service (primarily about the Immigration Rules).

Criminal Records Bureau

The CRB has six non-geographical telephone numbers and one non-geographical fax number in use. The lines are dedicated to an individual part of the service as follows:

CRB Information line

CRB Registration line

CRB Disclosure application line

CRB Minicom line

CRB Disputes Line

CRB Welsh line

CRB Customer Services (Fax)

The lines are provided by the CRB's private sector partner Capita plc as part of a commercial contract. The CRB does not receive any revenue from these lines.

Identity and Passport Service

There are currently eight Identity and Passport Service (IPS) telephone lines which all use 0300 numbers (previously 0845/0870 numbers). These numbers provide general passport advice and appointments at regional offices for passport applications:

Passport Advice Line

Authentication by interview Booking Line

ABI Welsh

Fees information

Customer Correspondence Queries

Local Registration Service. This was introduced in April 2011 to provide access to specialist advice from the General Register Office. Certificate Ordering services within the General Register Office

Passport Advice Line (text phone for hard of hearing customers)

Fees information service (text phone for hard of hearing customers)

IPS has not kept records of the number of calls each service received on the 0845/0870 numbers, but revenue raised from 0845/0870 numbers previously in use is as follows:

	£
2004-05	383,264.74
2005-06	238,605.96
2006-07	320,898.70
2008-09	236,730.00
2009-10	19,706.00

The revenue received was used to help fund the overall cost of the service.

Information on revenue earned prior to 2004 can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

The total revenue received in 2009-10 covers the period February to August 2009, as IPS stopped receiving revenue from its 0870 numbers from 1 September 2009. The figure in 2009-10 is much lower than previous years, as the majority of calls were on the new 0300 numbers introduced in September 2008.

Departmental Travel

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on flights *(a)* within England and *(b)* outside the UK in each of the last five years. [53431]

Damian Green: The Department's recorded spend on UK and overseas flights is shown in the following table.

Home Office expenditure on flights

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
UK					
Home Office and UKBA	1.04	1.17	1.15	1.64	0.90
IPS	0.31	0.47	0.53	0.42	0.23
CRB	0	0	0	0	0
Total UK	1.35	1.64	1.68	2.06	1.13
Overseas					
Home Office and UKBA	2.12	1.39	1.44	1.31	1.00
IPS	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.14
CRB	0	0	0	0.09	0
Total overseas	2.17	1.45	1.51	1.49	1.14
Total flights	3.52	3.09	3.19	3.55	2.27

Information on flights within England alone could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Figures for 2010-11 are subject to audit by National Audit Office.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

EU Immigration

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has discussed with her European counterparts the *(a)* definition and *(b)* legal status of irregular migrants; and whether she has discussed with (i) the Council of Europe and (ii) the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights the use of the term irregular migrant. [53845]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has discussed the prevention of illegal migration across the European Union's external borders with her European counterparts, including the situations in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. The Home Secretary has not discussed the definition or legal status of irregular migrants with her European counterparts, or the use of the term 'irregular migrant' with either the Council of Europe or the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights.

Freedom of Information

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of requests received by her Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 gave rise to responses published by her Department in each year since the entry into force of that Act. [53457]

Lynne Featherstone: The information is set out in the table in line with guidance published by the Information Commissioner. The Home Office publishes on its website information released in response to Freedom of Information requests where the information is likely to be of wider interest to members of the public. We do not publish responses in the many cases where the released information is of relevance only to the requester, or where the information requested is either not held or is withheld under one or more of the exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act.

Freedom of Information requests received by the Home Office, 2005-11

	Request received	*Reponses published (percentage)*
2005	1,970	15
2006	2,861	11
2007	2,269	10
2008	1,998	5
2009	2,492	4
2010	3,069	6
2011	867	7

Notes:

1. Figures for responses published in 2005 and 2006 do not involve responses published by the Criminal Records Bureau.
2. Figures for 2001 are to 31 March.

Hotels

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies spent on hotel and other such accommodation for staff (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad in each year since 2007-08. [53408]

Damian Green: Expenditure of the Home Office and its agencies on hotel accommodation for staff in the UK and abroad is shown in the following table:

Expenditure on staff hotel accommodation

£000

		2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Home Office	UK	1,213	3,562	1,026	1,000
	Overseas	4,318	2,478	173	124
UKBA	UK	[1]—	[1]—	4,678	3,702
	Overseas	[1]—	[1]—	2,478	2,236
IPS	UK	1,857	1,150	1,350	704
	Overseas	8	14	16	15
CRB	UK and Overseas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] UKBA became an executive agency in 2009-10

Figures for Crime Research Bureau cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel, and the associated accommodation, to be undertaken by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Hunting Act 2004

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* charges, *(b)* prosecutions, *(c)* fines and *(d)* cautions there have been for breaches of the Hunting Act 2004 in each police force area since 2006. [53518]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, and the number of offenders cautioned, for all offences under the Hunting Act 2004, in England and Wales by police force area from 2006 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Information on charging is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2010 are planned to be published on 26 May 2011.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, issued with a fine, or caution[1] for offences under the Hunting Act 2004[2], England and Wales, 2006-09[3,4]

	Cautioned				*Proceeded against*				*Fine*			
Police force area	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	2	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	6	3	—	—	6
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	4	—	—	3	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
Humberside	—	—	—	3	4	8	6	20	—	7	6	14
Kent	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	—	2	—	2
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	7	13	6	—	7	4	3
Merseyside	—	3	—	—	—	25	4	1	—	17	3	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	1	—	2	—	—	8	13	—	—	4	8
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	1	—	3	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	3	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
Thames Valley	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	17	—	—	2	8
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, issued with a fine, or caution[1] for offences under the Hunting Act 2004[2], England and Wales, 2006-09[3,4]

	Cautioned				Proceeded against				Fine			
Police force area	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
England and Wales	—	8	4	8	11	62	44	90	5	41	25	51

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] Came into force on 18 February 2005.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Immigration

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress the UK Border Agency has made in locating and correcting the immigration status document of Mr Khuy, of St Albans. [54054]

Damian Green: Mr Khuy's immigration status document was amended in line with his representative's request to change the spelling of his first name and was sent to his representatives on 18 November 2010 by recorded delivery.

In a query from my hon. Friend's office, made on 27 April 2011, the Agency were advised that Mr Khuy's immigration status documents had been returned with an incorrect date of birth and Mr Khuy had received confirmation of this delivery. I can confirm that the UK Border Agency will write to my hon. Friend directly with an update on Mr Khuy's case.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 April 2011 on the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2011, when she expects to bring forward an amendment to the regulations to introduce the new fee for stateless persons to be granted the status of a British protected person. [54089]

Damian Green: An amendment will be made at the next available opportunity. We do not yet have a planned date for this.

Rape

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of rape were reported to the police by *(a)* women and *(b)* men in each year since 2007-08; how many reports of rape resulted in prosecutions; and how many such prosecutions were successful in each such year. [53402]

Lynne Featherstone: Data on police recorded offences of rape against a male and rape against a female are collected by the Home Office. The requested data for each year since 2007-08 are provided in Table A.

Data on reported rapes which resulted in prosecutions are not available as it is not possible to track individual offences through to their outcome at court. Prosecutions data are based on the number of offenders and have been provided by the Ministry of Justice in Table B. These data are published on a calendar-year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. As such, prosecutions data cannot be linked to police recorded crime data.

Table A: Offences of rape against a male and rape against a female recorded in England and Wales 2007-08 to 2009-10

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Rape of a male	1,008	964	1,174
Rape of a female	11,629	12,140	13,991

Table B: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape[1] of a male and female England and Wales 2007-09[2, 3]

Offence	*2007*	*2008[4]*	*2009*
Rape of a male			
Proceeded against	197	162	213
Found guilty	82	67	65
Rape of a female			
Proceeded against	2,166	2,233	2,583
Found guilty	791	855	932
Total rape			
Proceeded against	2,363	2,395	2,796
Found guilty	873	922	997

[1] Includes attempted rape.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Shoplifting

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of shoplifting in the East of England in each year since 1997 in each parliamentary constituency; and how many of these convictions resulted in a custodial sentence. [53502]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 560W, for the number of offenders cautioned, found guilty and sentenced to a community rehabilitation order, community order, suspended sentence and immediate custody at all courts for 'stealing from shops and stalls' (shoplifting), in the East of England region, 1999 to 2009.

For the number of offenders found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody for shoplifting at all courts in the East of England, 1997 to 1998 please see the following table.

Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by parliamentary constituency or local authority area.

Please note that court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of offenders found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody for 'Shoplifting'[1] at all courts, East of England region 1997-98

	1997		*1998*	
Region/ Police force area	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Bedfordshire	610	126	717	165
Cambridgeshire	502	35	594	56
Essex	1,637	316	1,714	360
Hertfordshire	576	44	611	73
Norfolk	713	65	928	80
Suffolk	586	54	681	98
East of England Region	4,624	640	5,245	832

[1] Stealing from 'shops and stalls' (shoplifting) is an offence under Theft Act 1968, section 1.

Notes:

1. These statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics - Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

WORK AND PENSIONS

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals by claimants against decisions on non-entitlement to incapacity benefit there have been in each year since 2000; what the average length of time taken to determine such appeals was in each such year; and what the cost of such appeals was in each such year. [53410]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service is currently collating this information. I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Germany

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether any additional provision is to be made for local authorities to whose areas troops returning from overseas bases will settle; [53145]

(2) what timetable he has set for the return of troops from Germany; and to which garrisons they will return in the *(a)* first and *(b)* second wave; [53146]

(3) how many British troops he expects to return to the UK from bases overseas *(a)* before 2015 and *(b)* between 2015 and 2020; [53213]

(4) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers and officials of his Department have had with local authorities on the forthcoming return of British troops from Germany. [53214]

Nick Harvey: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) set out the Government's aim to accelerate the re-basing of the 20,000 or so armed forces personnel currently in Germany to the UK. Since the SDSR was announced the Ministry of Defence has been addressing the full range of basing and estate issues arising from the re-basing from Germany; restructuring of the Army's non-deployable regional and administrative structure; and the future requirement for RAF bases. Once we have drawn up a comprehensive basing and estates rationalisation plan the Army will be able to draw up its detailed proposals for the rebasing of forces from Germany. Officials will engage with the local authorities concerned as these develop.

Armed Forces: Prisons

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which Minister in his Department authorised the inclusion of the armed forces in contingency plans for dealing with industrial unrest at UK prisons; [52789]

(2) from which units armed forces personnel who have been part of contingency plans for dealing with industrial unrest at prisons have been selected; [53147]

(3) how many hours of training have been given to armed forces personnel as part of contingency plans for dealing with industrial unrest at UK prisons; [53148]

(4) how many work hours staff in his Department have spent on contingency planning for dealing with industrial unrest at prisons. [53215]

Nick Harvey: As Minister of State for the Armed Forces I authorised the provision of military assistance to the Ministry of Justice in the event of industrial action by prison officers following a formal request for assistance by the Ministry of Justice.

As at 26 April 2011, military personnel from the units in the following table have been or are currently being trained to support to the Ministry of Justice in the event of industrial action by prison officers. I have taken unit to mean those formations commanded by an officer of at least lieutenant colonel or equivalent. The army has mostly provided personnel in formed sub-units. In the case of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, smaller numbers have generally been provided from a number of establishments or ships, all of which are shown in the following table.

Royal Navy	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
HMS Chatham	1 Battalion Mercian Regiment	No 1 Force Protection Wing
HMS Manchester	21 Engineer Regiment	No 1 Tactical Police Wing
HMS Northumberland	4 Regiment Royal Artillery	No 2 Police Wing
HMS Portland	3 Logistic Support Regiment	Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering, RAF Cosford

Royal Navy	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
HMS Somerset	2 Signal Regiment	Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration and Defence College of Policing and Guarding, Southwick Park
HMS York	14 Signal Regiment	Defence Medical Rehabilitation Unit, Headley Court
HMS Gloucester	27 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps	Joint Force Harrier, RAF Wittering and RAF Cottesmore
HMS Sultan	39 Engineer Regiment	MOD Boscombe Down
HMS Dauntless	16 Regiment Royal Artillery	MOD St Athan
HMS Liverpool	22 Field Hospital	RAF Brampton
HMS Bulwark	17 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps	RAF Brize Norton
HMS Sutherland	29 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps	RAF Coningsby
HMS Campbeltowm	104 Field Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	RAF Cottesmore
HMNB Portsmouth	30 Signal Regiment	RAF Cranwell
HMNB Devonport	22 Signal Regiment	RAF Digby
RNAS Culdrose	Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion	RAF Halton
RNAS Yeovilton	1 Artillery Brigade	RAF Henlow
	101 Logistics Brigade	RAF High Wycombe
	2 Prince of Wales Royal Regiment	RAF Honington
	Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery	RAF Kinloss
	12 Regiment Royal Artillery	RAF Leeming
	5 The Royal Regiment of Scotland	RAF Linton-on-Ouse
	1 Royal Tank Regiment	RAF Lyneham
	HQ Joint Helicopter Command	RAF Marham
	HQ London District	RAF Northolt
	HQ 2 (South East) Brigade	RAF St Mawgan
	HQ 15 (North East) Brigade	RAF Scampton
	HQ 42(North West) Brigade	RAF Shawbury
	HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade	RAF Valley
	HQ 49 (East) Brigade	RAF Waddington
	HQ 143 (West Midlands) Brigade	RAF Wittering
	HQ 145 (South) Brigade	RAF Wyton
	HQ 160 (Wales) Brigade	Tactical Supply Wing, MOD Stafford

In addition, personnel from all three services have been provided from the Permanent Joint Headquarters, HQ Standing Joint Commander(UK) and Defence Equipment and Support.

Military personnel who may be called on to provide support in prisons receive a standardised 45-hour training package spread over five days. In addition, a small number of military personnel have been trained to conduct the training programme; these personnel receive approximately 90 hours training over 10 days.

The information on the number of working hours Ministry of Defence and other Headquarters staff have spent conducting contingency planning for any industrial action by prison officers is not held in the format requested. It is not possible to disaggregate this work from wider contingency and operational planning across the Department.

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of new recruits to the armed forces were under 18 years of age in each of the last 10 years; [52872]

(2) how many people of each sex under the age of 18 joined the armed forces in each of the last 10 years; [52873]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is presented in the following tables:

Percentage of intake under 18-years-old by financial year

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Percentage of intake under 18 years old	37.3	37.6	36.1	35.0	35.1	34.2	30.0	28.0	25.4	21.4

Intake to UK Regular Forces aged under 18 years in each of the last ten financial years by gender

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Male	7,750	7,960	8,445	7,320	5,610	5,645	5,290	5,440	5,275	4,235
Female	820	915	1,020	895	550	530	520	540	505	435

Departmental Food

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the *(a)* bacon and *(b)* eggs purchased by his Department since 7 May 2010 came from producers meeting UK animal welfare standards. [52695]

Peter Luff: This information is not held in the format requested.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has two primary contracting arrangements for feeding armed forces personnel; the first is a number of outsourced pay-as you-dine/catering retail and leisure contracts covering most armed forces personnel 'in UK barracks'. Contractors appointed under this arrangement are free to source on the open market consistent with meeting EU competition rules and quality standards. We will be calling for data next month from our catering retail and leisure suppliers, in order to provide a report to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on our status against the proposed Government buying standards for food and catering.

The second arrangement is a single food supply contract for armed forces personnel serving on operations, exercises, in submarines and ships worldwide as well as the remainder of armed forces personnel 'in barracks'. The food supply contract has been placed on Purple Food Service Solutions, which procures meat and dairy proteins in the UK that meet all UK animal welfare standards. Proteins purchased outside of the UK comply with the EU animal welfare standards. 100% of bacon sourced since May 2010 meets these standards. 100% of eggs sourced since May 2010 meets the Lion Standard, an internationally recognised quality code of practice. All food purchased through the MOD food supply contract is subject to stringent quality standards, encompassing farm assurance, animal welfare and health and nutrition. These meet or exceed all current legislative standards.

Electronic Warfare

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for, Defence whether his Department's computer systems have been targeted by the Stuxnet virus since its emergence. [52737]

Nick Harvey: We do not comment on the detail of cyber security incidents.

The Department has procedural and physical measures in place to protect against and mitigate the impact of such incidents.

Guided Weapons

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the contracts for the Future Anti-Surface Guided Weapon (Heavy) Anti-Navire Légère system are to be renegotiated as part of the review process within his Department; whether he plans to review the requirement for this system; and if he will make a statement; [51959]

(2) how much he expects his Department to spend on the Future Anti-Surface Guided Weapon (Heavy) Anti-Navire Légère system in the 2011-12 financial year; what the total planned cost of introduction of the system is; whether the planned cost is on budget; on what date he expects the system to enter service; and if he will make a statement. [51960]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence now takes a portfolio approach to procuring complex weapons. This was launched in April 2010 and will secure significant efficiencies across the breadth of the complex weapons portfolio over the next 10 years and beyond, and is designed to meet the UK's military requirements and safeguard our sovereign capability.

There are no plans to re-negotiate the Ministry of Defence contract with MBDA UK for the Future Anti-Surface Guided Weapon (Heavy)/Anti Navire Léger programme (FASGW(H)) which is currently in the assessment phase of the acquisition cycle and planned to complete later this year.

The Department estimates that it will spend about £1.7 million on the FASGW(H) programme in financial year 2011-12. As the project is in its assessment phase, the overall cost and in-service date have yet to be finalised. They will be considered as part of the departmental planning and approvals process leading to main gate approval, currently planned for later in financial year 2011-12, and subsequent procurement.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military equipment has had its life extended in response to the conflict in Libya; for how long the life of each item has been extended; on what date the life of each item is expected to expire; and what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of each month of life extension for each item. [52965]

Peter Luff: A single Nimrod R1 surveillance aircraft, two C-130K Hercules transport aircraft and the Type 22 Frigate HMS Cumberland have had their service lives extended in response of the conflict in Libya.

These equipments were due to be withdrawn from service from 1 April 2011 and have been extended by three months, one month and 16 days respectively, though the decision on the Nimrod R1 will be kept under review.

Contractual negotiations for the Nimrod R1's extension have not yet been completed, but the anticipated cost is likely to be around £4 million. The cost of extending the C-130s and HMS Cumberland is anticipated to be around £15,000 and £575,000 respectively.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department have had with their NATO counterparts on arming the opposition in Libya; [53016]

(2) what legal advice *(a)* he and *(b)* (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department have sought on arming the opposition in Libya. [53017]

Dr Fox: We are in constant discussion, both at ministerial and official level, with our NATO counterparts on how to continue to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1970 and 1973.

Departmental officials work closely with Ministry of Defence legal advisers at all times. Legal advice is subject to legal professional privilege and cannot therefore be disclosed.

Navy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capability the Royal Navy has to regenerate the ability to lift a brigade-sized force by sea. [51120]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 419W.

Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 436W, on piracy, whether there have been any recent changes to the naval doctrine on countering piracy. [53188]

Nick Harvey: There have been no recent changes to naval doctrine on counter piracy.

UN Security Council

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the total level of resources his Department will provide for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [53655]

Dr Fox: As the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made clear, the additional costs of operations in Libya will be fully met from the reserve.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Brazil: Dams

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his Brazilian counterpart on the construction of a hydroelectric dam in Brazil. [52839]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State for International Development has had no such discussions with the Government of Brazil.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53800]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development owns one property in the UK, our office named Abercrombie House, in Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, G75 8EA, where the building is valued at £4,960,000.

In addition, we own 8 residential properties in Malawi to a total value of £789,239, and three residential properties in Zimbabwe to a total value of £189,495. Addresses of these properties cannot be provided for security reasons.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52810]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) thank by email or letter all those inquiring about work experience, internships and volunteer work for their interest in gaining experience in international development.

We explain that DFID does not offer opportunities for paid or unpaid work experience, internships or voluntary work within the Department. Given current resource constraints the cost of running such schemes is disproportionately high when compared to the very small number of opportunities we could contemplate offering.

We advise them to check our website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

for advertised vacancies and for more information on other aid organisations.

The International Citizens Service was launched on 9 March 2011 to provide opportunities for 18 to 22-year-olds to undertake voluntary work in a developing country. More information is available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Get-Involved/Volunteering/International-Citizen-Service/

Developing Countries: Cotton

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has contributed to the EU-Africa Partnership on cotton and its associated action plan. [52206]

Mr O'Brien: The UK provides financial support to aid for trade programmes for cotton producers. Much of this is channelled through the European Development Fund, including through the Action Plan of the EU-Africa Partnership on Cotton.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what forms of support his Department provided for cotton producers in developing countries in 2010-11. [52207]

Mr O'Brien: In 2010-11 the UK provided political support for cotton producers, pressing for conclusion of the Doha Development Round (DDA), reform of the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) and removal of US cotton subsidies. Financial support was given through a range of institutions for aid for trade programmes to support cotton producers. The UK also provided support for research to highlight the negative impact of cotton subsidies on farmers in developing countries and influence their removal.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made to the World Trade Organisation's aid for trade programmes for cotton producers. [52229]

Mr O'Brien: The World Trade Organisation (WTO) does not carry out aid for trade programmes itself, but does monitor flows of aid for trade finance. The UK provides financial support to aid for trade programmes for cotton producers. The majority of UK support is channelled through institutions such as the European Commission and World Bank. The UK also provides a small amount of bilateral support.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the proposal in respect of cotton contained in paragraph 52 of the World Trade Organisation's revised draft modalities for agriculture of 6 December 2008. [52516]

Mr O'Brien: Paragraph 52 of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) revised draft modalities for agriculture within the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) does not explicitly address cotton. However, other parts of the text contain proposals to address trade-distorting policies affecting the cotton sector. These call for larger and faster cuts in cotton subsidies, relative to others.

Given the importance of cotton to farmers in developing countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa, the UK Government supports these proposals and is at the forefront of countries pressing for an ambitious outcome on cotton within the DDA.

Developing Countries: Debts

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on permanency of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010; and if he will expand its remit to include other British Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. [52923]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010 and the Act came into force on 8 June 2010. The legislation means that UK Courts of Law can no longer be used to pursue excessive claims against some of the poorest countries on their historic debts, ensuring that resources are available to tackle poverty. The sunset clause attached to this legislation means that the law will expire on 7 June 2011. The Government have reviewed the impact of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. Evidence suggests that the Act has had some benefit on heavily indebted poor countries and no evidence has been found of unintended adverse effects. The Government have decided to make the Act permanent. The draft Order was laid before Parliament on 28 March 2011. The UK will share its experience of addressing non-participation in debt relief with Britain's Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories.

Developing Countries: Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the inclusion of increased investment in access to clean energy for the poorest people as an outcome in the new World Bank energy strategy. [52889]

Mr O'Brien: The UK strongly supports the World Bank's ambition to increase lending for access to clean energy, particularly for the poorest, as part of its new energy strategy.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will promote a reformed approach to the World Bank's work on climate change including a reduction in finance for fossil fuels; and whether he raised this issue at the World Bank Spring meetings. [52890]

Mr O'Brien: The World Bank's Energy Strategy must meet the twin goals of sustainable energy production and addressing the chronic shortfall in energy that exists in many countries. We therefore strongly support a reformed approach to the World Bank's work on climate change including a shift away from fossil fuel lending and an increase in lending for clean energy.

In his statement to the World Bank Development Committee the Secretary of State for International Development emphasised the bank's role to support the global climate change agenda. He said that the bank should promote energy efficiency and generation from renewable energy sources.

A copy of the statement is available in the World Bank website at:

http://www.web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/
DEVCOMMEXT/
0,,menuPK:60001657~pagePK:64001141~piPK:
64001176~theSitePK:277473,00.html

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the proposed ban on World Bank lending for new coal power projects to middle income countries; and whether he raised this issue at the World Bank spring meetings. [52891]

Mr O'Brien: The UK strongly support the bank's shift away from lending for coal fired power stations towards cleaner energy sources where there is a greater need for concessional lending. The bank should focus where it can add most value such as support for low income countries, which have less capacity and access to finance. We want to see the bank helping countries explore all reasonable alternative options before concluding that coal is the appropriate option. Where these are not feasible we want to see efforts being made to ensure the cleanest possible technology is used.

In his statement to the World Bank Development Committee the Secretary of State for International Development emphasised the bank's role to support the global climate change agenda by promoting energy efficiency and generation from renewable energy sources. He also indicated it should focus on the most valuable contribution it can make, such as leveraging finance for clean energy production.

A copy of the statement is available in the World Bank website at:

http://www.web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/
DEVCOMMEXT/0,,menuPK:60001657~pageP
K:64001141~piPK:64001176~theSitePK:277473,00.html

Overseas Aid

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the monetary value was of aid received by each country in receipt of UK official development assistance in the last year for which figures are available. [53141]

Mr Duncan: Details of estimated UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) are published on the Department of International Development's (DFID's) website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/

This includes a breakdown of all countries in receipt of UK ODA. Final 2010 ODA figures will be published later in the year in DFID's publication 'Statistics on International Development' which will also be available on DFID's website.

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to the public purse was of the UK's official development assistance in the last year for which figures are available. [53142]

Mr Duncan: UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2010 is estimated at £8.4 billion. Details of estimated 2010 ODA are published on the Department for International Development (DFID) website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/

Final UK ODA figures will be published later in the year in DFID's publication 'Statistics on International Development' which will also be posted on DFID's website.

Supermarkets

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had any meetings since September 2010 with representatives of *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* Sainsbury's, *(c)* Asda, *(d)* Morrisons and *(e)* trade associations of which these companies are members. [52213]

Mr O'Brien: Department for International Development Ministers have not met representatives of Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons or their trade associations since September 2010. Details of Ministers' meetings are published quarterly and are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/

DFID officials have met with representatives from the Ethical Trading Initiative and attended their Annual General Meeting in January 2011. Tesco, Sainsbury's and Asda are members of the Ethical Trading Initiative.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the public revenue for the Turks and Caicos islands for each of the next five years. [52076]

Mr Duncan: The Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands signed off the latest budget on 5 April. This included the following public revenue projections:

	US$ million
2011-12	163
2012-13	170
2013-14	190

There are currently no formal estimates for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the Turks and Caicos budget is currently assigned to benefit and welfare payments. [52077]

Mr Duncan: The proportion of the 2011-12 budget recently approved in the Turks and Caicos Islands assigned for social welfare payments is 0.61%.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much money was spent from the public purse on benefit and welfare payments in Turks and Caicos in each of the last five years. [52078]

Mr Duncan: According to as yet unaudited accounts, the spending by the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands on social welfare payments, in US$, over the past five years was as follows:

	US$
2006-07	1,795,187
2007-08	2,563,296
2008-09	2,146,501
2009-10	1,769,572
2010-11	1,513,515

The UK taxpayer has not financed any of this expenditure.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that students accepted on International Citizen Service overseas projects are drawn from *(a)* a wide geographical area and *(b)* a balance between state and private education. [52326]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The pilot phase of International Citizen Service is being implemented by a consortium of experienced development volunteering agencies, who are required to ensure that volunteers are drawn from all regions of the UK, and from low, middle and higher household income groups.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to Voluntary Service Overseas in each of the last five years; and how much funding his Department expects to allocate in each of the next five years. [52391]

Mr O'Brien: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) support to Civil Society Organisations, including Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), are published in Statistics on International Development (SID) which is available in the House Library and online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

Figures for 2005-06 to 2009-10 are reproduced as follows. Provisional 2010-11 figures will be published in the annual report in July.

Financial year	*DFID support to VSO (£ million)*
2005-06	28.83
2006-07	28.8
2007-08	29.35
2008-09	30.9
2009-10	34.12

VSO have a Strategic Gant Arrangement with DFID which runs until 2013-14. Funding approved under this agreement is:

Financial year	*DFID support to VSO (£ million)*
2011-12	30.00
2012-13	26.00
2013-14	22.00

Over the three years of this Strategic Grant Arrangement, VSO will look to diversify and widen its funding base, thereby increasing income and lessening its dependence on DFID support.

VSO is also in receipt of funding of £8.37 million in 2011 for the pilot phase of the International Citizen Service programme.

EDUCATION

CAFCASS

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many cases in which the Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service has intervened were not resolved after *(a)* 12 months, *(b)* 24 months and *(c)* 36 months on the most recent date for which figures are available; [53764]

(2) what the average time taken between the first assessment of a child and the allocation of a case in each Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service region was in the most recent date for which figures are available. [53762]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not hold this information. This is an operational matter for which CAFCASS is responsible; I have asked CAFCASS's chief executive, Anthony Douglas, to write to the hon. Member with this information, and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many *(a)* fathers and *(b)* mothers have been denied access to their children as a result of a decision or recommendation from Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five years; [53861]

(2) how many *(a)* fathers and *(b)* mothers have (i) successfully and (ii) unsuccessfully challenged a final decision by Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to prevent access to a child in each of the last five years. [53862]

Tim Loughton: Decisions regarding contact with children are made by the family courts rather than by CAFCASS. The court will make a decision within the framework on the Children Act 1989 which requires the court to consider the best interests of the child in each particular case. The court may seek advice from CAFCASS or other agencies on an issue but is not bound to follow any recommendations in the report.

Neither the Department for Education nor CAFCASS collects information on whether the courts follow the recommendations in CAFCASS reports, or on the nature of those recommendations.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the quality of reports provided by Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to family courts. [53864]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not assess the quality of individual reports provided by CAFCASS to the family courts. However, the quality of the service which CAFCASS provides is assessed by Ofsted.

Children: Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department holds information on levels of emotional intelligence in children. [53706]

Mr Gibb: The only information held by the Department on the levels of emotional intelligence in pupils comes from the two evaluations of the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme which were published in 2008 and 2010. These evaluations included measures of pupils' social and emotional skills, mental health difficulties, and behaviour problems.

A national evaluation of SEAL in secondary schools conducted by Manchester university was published in October last year. The evaluation can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RR049

An evaluation of primary SEAL was published in 2008. The review can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-RB064

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 767-68W, on departmental procurement, who appointed the Chair of the National Curriculum review expert panel; what the monetary value is of his contract with the Department; and how this was determined. [53101]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The decision to appoint Mr Tim Oates as Chair of the National

Curriculum Review Expert Panel was made by the Secretary of State for Education, on the advice of officials. Mr Oates has been engaged to carry out this role through a part-time secondment to the Department for Education from his current employer, Cambridge Assessment. Mr Oates's rate of remuneration for carrying out this role matches that which he receives from Cambridge Assessment for his work there.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51399]

Tim Loughton: The information for the Department is set out in the following table:

Category of spend	*Cost (£)*
Recruitment Agency Fees	0
Outplacement Agency Fees	7,657
Staff training	874,448

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public purse of independent schools adopting free school status; [53239]

(2) whether limits will be placed on the catchment area for an independent school acquiring free school status; [53240]

(3) whether independent schools will be required to admit a defined proportion of local pupils if they acquire free school status; [53241]

(4) whether independent schools which become free schools will be permitted to retain their charitable status; [53242]

(5) whether any admissions requirements will be applied to independent schools which are given free school status; [53243]

(6) whether any differences exist in the applications procedure for free school status followed by maintained schools and independent schools; [53244]

(7) whether he plans to place a limit on the number of independent schools which may be given free school status; [53245]

(8) what mechanism his Department has put in place to process expressions of interest by independent schools seeking to become free schools. [53246]

Mr Gibb: We will be assessing Free School applications against the criteria that have been published in the 'how to apply' form, which is available on the Department's website:

http://education.gov.uk/freeschools/a0074965/how-to-apply-to-open-a-free-school

When assessing free school applications from independent schools, we will also take into account additional factors as set out in the 'how to apply' form. We have not set a limit on the number of independent schools which can become free schools, nor separately estimated the associated costs.

All free schools must be charities and are required to comply with the school admissions code. Maintained schools cannot apply to become free schools.

Further Education

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people entered formal post-16 education in *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* school sixth forms in each of the last five academic years. [51591]

Mr Gibb: Data on participation in education post-16 are published in a Department for Education (DfE) Statistical First Release (SFR) entitled 'Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England'.

The following table shows the numbers and proportions of the cohort of young people of academic age 16 (the vast majority of whom will be in their first year of post-compulsory education) enrolled in various institution types for the last five years for which data are available:

	End 2005		*End 2006*		*End 2007*		*End 2008*		*End 2009*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Maintained schools	195,100	29.7	202,200	30.3	204,000	30.4	209,300	31.6	210,000	33.0
Academies and city technology colleges	3,200	0.5	3,700	0.6	5,500	0.8	8,300	1.3	12,500	2.0
Independent schools	38,000	5.8	39,300	5.9	39,100	6.1	40,200	6.1	38,700	6.1
Sixth form colleges	69,700	10.6	71,600	10.7	72,800	10.9	73,500	11.1	75,500	11.9
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges	214,100	32.6	223,700	33.5	230,000	34.3	234,300	35.4	228,900	35.9
Higher education institutions	4,000	0.6	3,800	0.6	2,900	0.4	2,600	0.4	2,400	0.4

Note:
The table excludes young people who were undertaking work based education and training (largely apprenticeships), employer funded training, or "other education and training" with a private training provider; numbers and proportions estimated to be participating in those ways without also being enrolled in a college or school at end 2009 were 28,900 (4.5%), 6,400 (1.0%) and 2,200 (0.3%) respectively.

Further Education: Disadvantaged

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that further education and sixth form colleges have access to data which enables them to assess whether pupils aged 16 who enrol in September 2011 *(a)* were in receipt of a free school meal in school year 11, *(b)* are from a household with a low income, *(c)* are in care and *(d)* are in a household in receipt of income support. [53116]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* We will take steps to ensure that schools, colleges and training providers have access to information that will allow them to identify those young people who should receive bursaries of £1,200 a year. Beyond this group, further education and sixth form colleges will be able to exercise their discretion to award 16-19 bursaries to young people—including to young people who were in receipt of free school meals in year 11—in ways that best fit local needs and circumstances.

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to his statement of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 54 on post-16 education funding, what his source is for the figure of 12,000 16 to 18 year-olds who are in care, or are care leavers and in receipt of income support; and if he will make a statement. [53200]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* Education maintenance allowance data suggest that there are currently around 12,000 young people participating in education and training in the vulnerable groups that will be eligible for a £1,200 bursary. This equates to around 1% of 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education or training.

Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of levels of emotional intelligence on (i) behavioural, (ii) cognitive and (iii) biological and physical development. [53690]

Mr Gibb: Under the Department for Children, Schools and Families two evaluations were commissioned of the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme. These were published in 2008 and 2010, and included measures of pupils' social and emotional skills, mental health difficulties, and behaviour problems. No quantitative measurements were included of cognitive, biological or physical development.

A national evaluation of SEAL in secondary schools conducted by Manchester university, which was published in October last year, found that SEAL failed to impact significantly upon pupils' social and emotional skills, general mental health difficulties, pro-social behaviour or behaviour problems. The evaluation can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RR049

An evaluation of primary SEAL was published in 2008, focusing on small group work, found mixed evidence for the effectiveness of the small group work. The review can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-RB064

Primary Education: Literacy

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department plans to provide for the Reading Recovery programme up to 2015; and if he will make a statement. [53747]

Mr Gibb: Funding for the Every Child programmes has been mainstreamed as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant, and will be protected at current levels for the next three years up to 2014. This includes Every Child a Reader (ECaR), which has Reading Recovery at its core.

In addition, as set out in the recent Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability", the Government will provide modest funding to facilitate the transition to the open market of the ECaR programme over the next three years. By 2015 the intention is that the programme should be operating without central Government support.

Students: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he has allocated to *(a)* £1,200 bursaries, *(b)* students currently in receipt of education maintenance allowance and *(c)* students eligible for free school meals from the discretionary learner support fund. [51642]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* We expect the cost of providing a £1,200 bursary to the most vulnerable young people to be just under £15 million in 2011/12. In addition, £101.1 million in 2011/12 will be allocated to schools, colleges and training providers for them to make discretionary awards from the 16-19 Bursary Fund, including to young people who were eligible for free school meals in year 11. Transitional support for young people currently in receipt of education maintenance allowance is expected to cost £194.2 million in 2011/12.

Unemployment: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will meet the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to discuss the effects of the Government's policies on non-departmental public bodies in the education sector on the unemployment rate in Coventry. [53634]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1262W. The Department is still working through the details of the proposed changes to the non-departmental bodies for which it is responsible, it cannot say, at this stage, what effect the creation of the agencies will have on the unemployment rate in Coventry. Once the position is clear my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education would be happy to meet with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, should that be appropriate.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the earliest point in its development an unborn child will experience pain, (ii) the earliest gestational age at which an unborn child may be capable of being born alive, (iii) the number of occasions when an unborn baby is wrongly diagnosed as being handicapped and is subsequently born without disability or handicap and (iv) the suicide rate among women who have had an abortion since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [53011]

Anne Milton: The Department commissioned the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to update its 1997 report 'Fetal Awareness, Review of Research and Recommendations for Practice', which was published in 2010, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. After reviewing the available evidence, the working party concluded that before 24 weeks gestation the nervous system has not developed sufficiently to allow the foetus to experience pain.

The British Association of Perinatal Medicine published guidance in October 2008 entitled 'The Management of Babies born Extremely Preterm at less than 26 weeks of gestation: A Framework for Clinical Practice at the time of Birth,' which is based on the latest evidence and best practice, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The guidance states that if gestational age is certain and less than 23 weeks it would be considered in the best interests of the baby for resuscitation not to be carried out.

Data are not available on suicides following abortion, as a death certificate does not record whether a woman has had an abortion and death records are not routinely linked to other medical records. However, there is currently no strong evidence to suggest that women who have had an abortion are high risk for suicide.

The Department does not collect information on the number of occasions when an unborn baby is diagnosed as being handicapped and is subsequently born without disability or handicap.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which private sector clinics and hospitals provide abortions; how many beds there are in each facility; whether each facility is approved for *(a)* surgical day care abortions with or without general anaesthetic and *(b)* late abortions; and what the name is of the proprietor of each facility. [53012]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State has the power under Section 1(3) of the Abortion Act 1967 to approve premises for the treatment of termination of pregnancy. Information on those independent sector clinics that have been approved to carry out termination of pregnancy is shown in the following table.

The Department no longer routinely collects information on how many beds there are in each facility.

Name of clinic	*Proprietor*	*Undertakes surgical day care abortions with or without general anaesthetic*	*Performs terminations up to 24 weeks gestation*
BMI The Blackheath Hospital	BMI Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
BMI The Cavell Hospital (North London)	BMI Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
BMI The Chaucer Hospital	BMI Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
BMI The Clementine Churchill Hospital	BMI Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
BMI The Droitwich Spa Hospital	BMI Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
BMI Gisburne Park Hospital	BMI Healthcare Ltd	—	—
BMI The Park Hospital	BMI Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
BMI Three Shires Hospital	Three Shires Hospital Charity	—	—
BMI The Sandringham Hospital	BMI Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
BPAS Basingstoke	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Blackdown Clinic	BPAS	Yes	—
BPAS Cannock Clinic	BPAS	Yes	—
BPAS Central Birmingham Clinic	BPAS	Yes	Yes
BPAS Central London Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Coventry Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Danum Lodge Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Dean Park Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Hastings	BPAS	Yes	Yes
BPAS High Wycombe Unit	BPAS	Yes	Yes
BPAS Leeds Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Leigham Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Luton Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Merseyside Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Milton Keynes DCU	BPAS	Yes	Yes
BPAS Newcastle Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS North London Day Surgery Unit	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Peterborough Clinic	BPAS	Yes	—
BPAS Robert Clinic	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Rosslyn Clinic	BPAS	Yes	—
BPAS Stafford Clinic	BPAS	—	—

Name of clinic	*Proprietor*	*Undertakes surgical day care abortions with or without general anaesthetic*	*Performs terminations up to 24 weeks gestation*
BPAS Swindon Clinic	BPAS	Yes	—
BPAS Tamworth Daycare Unit	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Torquay North	BPAS	Yes	—
BPAS Torquay Treatment Unit	BPAS	—	—
BPAS Wistons Clinic	BPAS	Yes	—
BPAS Wolverhampton Day Care Unit	BPAS	Yes	—
Central Wolverhampton Clinic (Calthorpe)	Fraterdrive Ltd	Yes	—
South Manchester Private Clinic	Fraterdrive Ltd	Yes	—
Fraterdrive Manchester	Fraterdrive Ltd	—	—
Stoke Pregnancy Advisory Service	Fraterdrive Ltd	—	—
Fraterdrive Bolton	Fraterdrive Ltd	—	—
The Portland Hospital	HCA International Ltd	Yes	—
The Wellington Hospital	HCA International Ltd	—	—
Marie Stopes Blackpool Centre	Marie Stopes International	—	—
Marie Stopes Bristol Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	—
Marie Stopes Canterbury Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	—
Marie Stopes Crawley Centre	Marie Stopes International	—	—
Marie Stopes Essex Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	Yes
Marie Stopes House	Marie Stopes International	Yes	—
Marie Stopes Leeds Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	—
Marie Stopes Maidstone Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	—
Marie Stopes Manchester International Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	—
Marie Stopes North London Centre, Edgware	Marie Stopes International	Yes	—
Marie Stopes Preston Centre	Marie Stopes International	—	—
Marie Stopes Reading Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	—
Marie Stopes South London Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	Yes
Marie Stopes Wakefield Centre	Marie Stopes International	—	—
Marie Stones West London Centre	Marie Stopes International	Yes	Yes
Nottingham NHS Treatment Centre	Nations Health Care Ltd	Yes	Yes
Nuffield Health Hereford Centre	Nuffield Health	Yes	—
Nuffield Health Ipswich Centre	Nuffield Health	Yes	—
Nuffield Health Leicester Hospital	Nuffield Health	Yes	—
Nuffield Health Newcastle upon Tyne Hospital	Nuffield Health	Yes	—
Nuffield Health North Staffordshire Hospital	Nuffield Health	Yes	—
Nuffield Health Plymouth Hospital	Nuffield Health	Yes	—
Nuffield Health Shrewsbury Hospital	Nuffield Health	Yes	—
Nuffield Health The Manor Hospital	Nuffield Health	Yes	—
Southampton NHS Treatment Centre	Partnership Health Group Ltd	Yes	—
Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay Health Care UK Operations Ltd	Yes	—
Duchy Hospital	Ramsay Health Care UK Operations Ltd	Yes	—
Fitzwilliam Hospital	Ramsay Health Care UK Operations Ltd	Yes	—
Pinehill Hospital	Ramsay Health Care UK Operations Ltd	Yes	Yes
Rivers Hospital	Ramsay Health Care UK Operations Ltd	Yes	—
Spire Alexandra Hospital	Spire Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
Spire Bristol Hospital	Spire Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
Spire Bushey Hospital	Spire Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
Spire Cheshire Hospital	Spire Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
Spire Hull and East Riding Hospital	Spire Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
Spire Leicester Hospital	Spire Healthcare Limited	Yes	—
Spire Murrayfield Hospital	Spire Healthcare Ltd	Yes	Yes
Spire Washington Hospital	Spire Healthcare Ltd	Yes	—
The Calthorpe Clinic	The Calthorpe Clinic Ltd	Yes	Yes

Source:
Department of Health Abortion Act 1967 Application for Approval form

Alzheimer's Disease: Carers

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training and support the NHS makes available for carers to improve care for those living with Alzheimer's. [53256]

Paul Burstow: This Government recognise the valuable role played by people who care for those living with Alzheimer's.

While there is no specific provision available for carers of those living with Alzheimer's, the Government's updated Carers Strategy, "Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy", sets out the overarching priority areas for action over the next four years to support all carers in their caring role, which may include those caring for someone with Alzheimer's. This includes the provision of personalised support for carers and those they support and supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well.

The Department is investing additional funding of £400 million to the national health service over the next four years to enable more carers to take breaks from their caring responsibilities, which may include carers of those living with Alzheimer's.

The "Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12" says that:

> "It has not always been apparent how funding to support carers has been used in each PCT. The spending review has made available additional funding in PCT baselines to support the provision of breaks for carers. PCTs should pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. For 2011-12, PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people."

Ambulance Services: Greater London

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to the London Ambulance Service during the comprehensive spending review period; what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in the budget on *(a)* the number of frontline jobs and *(b)* standards of care; and if he will make a statement. [52989]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally. The majority of funding for Ambulance Services is through General Allocations. Primary care trust (PCT) recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is for PCTs to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

Every penny saved should be reinvested in improving patient care and the national health service must cut back on bureaucracy. Efficiency savings must not impact adversely on patient care.

Cancer

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the average stage of cancer at the time of diagnosis for people aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59, *(c)* 60 to 69, *(d)* 70 to 79 and *(e)* over 80 years in each (i) cancer network and (ii) primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [53349]

Paul Burstow: No assessment has been made of the average stage of cancer at the time of diagnosis by age, cancer network and primary care trust. We recognise that there are gaps in the data recorded about cancer patients, including incomplete recording of data on the stage of cancer at the time of diagnosis.

Collecting and analysing staging data will enable us to monitor progress in improving cancer survival rates and to target interventions more effectively.

'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' (January 2011), a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, said that the Department will take action to improve the recording of cancer stage. The 'Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12' has made it clear that providers are expected to include staging data in the information they feed to cancer registries. The core service specification for cancer registries for 2011-12 is being amended to require registries to improve their recording of stage to the level of the current best.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department is providing to the National Cancer Equality Initiative for the purposes of ensuring that measures to reduce inequality are embedded into all aspects of cancer service delivery. [53350]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" (January 2011) makes clear that tackling health inequalities is essential to improving outcomes and achieving cancer survival rates which match the best performing countries in the world. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The strategy makes a commitment to deliver survival rates as good as the European average by 2014-15. The national health service will have to embed measures to reduce inequalities in cancer care in order to deliver on this commitment. National support is provided and funded through the National Cancer Intelligence Network, particularly the Equality Portal which provides localised data on the equality metrics, and the National Cancer Action Team. A programme of work, based on the commitments set out in the strategy, has been agreed for 2011-12.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of proposals by the National Cancer Intelligence Network to analyse existing cancer data sets according to the rurality of a patient's home address; [53351]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of proposals by the National Cancer Intelligence Network to collect information on *(a)* patient disability and *(b)* patients' sexual orientation; and if he will make a statement. [53352]

Paul Burstow: The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) published a data briefing in April 2011 describing the effect of rurality on cancer incidence and mortality. During 2011-12 the NCIN will be investigating what further analyses are practical with regard to rurality and cancer, in particular relating to access to specialist treatment services such as radiotherapy.

The recent results of the national Cancer Patient Experience survey 2010 provided invaluable insights into equality issues. Patients were asked about any disabilities they had. For the first time we also asked patients about their sexual orientation. People with a disability or long term condition reported a less positive experience than other patients across a wide range of issues measured in the survey. This was particularly marked for patients with a mental health condition or a learning disability. Non-heterosexual patients reported less positive experience, especially in relation to communication and being treated with respect and dignity.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the National Cancer Intelligence Network's cancer equalities portal; and if he will assess how his Department is using the portal to increase equality in the delivery of cancer care. [53353]

Paul Burstow: The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) established the Equalities Portal in March 2010. The portal brings together a range of equality metrics, with the aim of informing action to tackle inequalities in cancer services. Since its launch the portal has been accessed around 2,000 times. The portal is available on the internet to professionals and the public, and has been widely advertised at national and local events. The portal has also been referenced in national and local guidance (such as the Local Awareness and Early Diagnosis Baseline Guide). An accompanying "Evidence Guide" published by the NCIN in November 2010 has been downloaded 170 times.

Cancer: Drugs

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of levels of variation in the way the interim Cancer Drugs Fund has been spent and administered by different NHS trusts. [52988]

Paul Burstow: The Department put in place arrangements to monitor use of the £50 million additional funding for cancer drugs provided in 2010-11.

In addition, we have developed 'Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12'. In doing so, we have drawn on strategic health authorities' experience of operating the arrangements put in place for allocating the additional funding made available in 2010-11, alongside feedback gathered during the public consultation on our proposals for the Cancer Drugs Fund. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The document 'The Cancer Drugs Fund: Government response to consultation' was published on 1 April 2011 alongside the launch of the fund. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Health Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future commissioning of the publication of cancer outcome data which are not included in the NHS outcome frameworks. [53236]

Paul Burstow: We are committed to improving outcomes for all cancers and "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" (January 2011), a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, set out how we will achieve this. The Office for National Statistics routinely publishes data on cancer mortality and survival rates. There is a range of other outcomes data that we have previously published and which we intend to publish in the future. For example, the patient experience survey in 2010 included outcomes data in relation to patient experience, and we intend repeating this survey in 2011-12, but the indicators have yet to be determined. We are likely to also publish cancer outcomes data in relation to the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Working with a number of other countries, we are running the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership project which is collecting international cancer outcomes data. Some of the results have already been published and we expect to publish more data in due course.

The Strategy also includes a commitment to publish annual reports to measure progress on implementation and on improving cancer outcomes.

Cancer: Research

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated to research into cancer in each of the last five years. [52716]

Paul Burstow: The most recent available figures for departmental expenditure on cancer research are shown in the following table:

	£ million
2005-06	168
2006-07	161
2007-08	159
2008-09	134
2009-10	91

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution *(a)* the National Commissioning Board and *(b)* GP consortia will make to promoting cancer research under his proposals for NHS reform. [53234]

Paul Burstow: The Department is fully committed to clinical and applied research into cancer.

Clause 13 of the Health and Social Care Bill provides a power that the National Health Service Commissioning Board or a commissioning consortium may conduct, commission or assist the conduct of research into any matters relating to the causation, prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness.

Clause 19 of the Bill includes a duty that the Board must, in the exercise of its functions, have regard to the need to promote research on matters relevant to the health service, and the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research.

Cataracts: Surgery

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cataract operations were carried out on NHS patients by the private sector in each year since 1996-97 for which figures are available. [54057]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table provided by the Information Centre for health and social care shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for cataract surgery performed by independent sector providers, commissioned by the national health service, for the years 2003-04 to 2009-10. Data are not available prior to 2003-04.

	Total episodes[1]
2003-04	120
2004-05	559
2005-06	124
2006-07	6,964
2007-08	7,462
2008-09	11,500
2009-10	16,370

[1] The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as the same person may be admitted on more than one occasion.

Note:

Changes to the figures over time should be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice.

Clinical Trials

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of equality in access to clinical trials; and what steps he is taking to increase access for certain patient groups. [53355]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made any such assessment. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) provides health service infrastructure to support clinical trials and other well designed studies in the national health service in England. Currently 97% of NHS trusts are recruiting into NIHR CRN studies.

The Government are committed to opening up information about clinical trials so that patients can find out about trials that may be relevant to their condition. The NIHR is developing a web-based UK Clinical Trials Gateway. It will present, in accessible form, information about trials conducted in the United Kingdom. By 2012, the Gateway will make it easy for patients, their doctors and carers, friends and families to see what a trial is about, where it is taking place, and who is running it. It will help patients to join in clinical trials if they are suitable and choose to do so with full information and advice.

The NIHR encourages patients and the public to be actively involved in all NIHR-funded health and social care research. The NIHR funds Involve which promotes active public participation in NHS, public health and social care research to improve the way that research is prioritised, commissioned, undertaken, communicated and used.

Clostridium

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of patients treated for clostridium difficile who experience a recurrence of symptoms; what research he has evaluated on any link between recurrence and reinfection; and if he will make a statement. [53157]

Paul Burstow: Data on recurrences of clostridium difficile infection are not collected centrally. The symptoms of initial infection, recurrence of infection and re-infection is similar. Differentiation between recurrence of infection and re-infection requires culture and characterization of the causative strain(s) of clostridium difficile. This is not routinely undertaken, as diagnoses are often based on the detection of clostridium difficile toxins, rather than microbiological culture. However, studies typically show that approximately a quarter of individuals with clostridium difficile Infection experience a recurrence of their symptoms. In about half of these recurrences a different strain (ie re-infection) is the cause, with the others due to relapse from the original strain. The best solution is to prevent these infections by adhering to the Department of Health/Health Protection Agency guidance on managing this infection clostridium difficile infection: How to deal with the problem. A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1232006607827

Dementia: Research

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will prioritise pre-clinical and basic research into cause, diagnosis and early stage treatment when allocating funding for research into dementia; [53252]

(2) whether he has any plans to reallocate dementia research funding between research bodies; [53253]

(3) what plans he has to take forward the work of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Dementia Research after its conclusion. [53254]

Paul Burstow: Dementia is a research priority for the Government and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has issued a themed call on dementia. This call extends across the translational pathway, covering the fields of cause, cure and care, including prevention.

The importance the Government places on dementia research has been reflected by the formation of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Dementia Research. This Group has now completed its work and produced a comprehensive set of proposals. These will be set out in a "Route Map for Dementia Research", to be published after the summer recess.

The Department funds research through the NIHR and the Department's Policy Research programme. It is not responsible for other research funding bodies.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52811]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department takes part in a number of schemes offering intern placements to students expressing an interest in working in government. The Summer Placement Scheme offers placements to those of different ethnic backgrounds and to those with disabilities. Last year, the Department had two summer interns from this programme. The Department also engages in an annual eight-week placement for NHS management trainees and last year we took on 10 trainees. There were also four student analysts and one finance, student awarded short-term contracts to help enhance their work experience and aid their academic studies. All are offered support prior to and after they arrive and feedback is provided on how well they performed during their time in the Department. Placements for these schemes are offered via universities, the national health service and the Cabinet Office which also provides a range of advice and attend career fairs to attract interest in working in government.

The Department has a work experience policy, which was published early this year. The policy sets out the criteria and processes that support setting up and managing work experience placements. Work experience placement requests are handled locally by managers in the Department.

The Department is not currently hosting any volunteers. The Department does have a policy of encouraging its own staff to engage in voluntary work outside the Department.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53209]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 8 May 2010, the Department recruited four analyst students on one-year fixed-term contracts and one finance student on a two-month fixed- term contract. The Department also took part in the annual Cabinet Office cohort-led ethnic and disabled Summer Placement Schemes, recruiting two candidates to fulfil an eight-week placement.

The Department also engages in an annual eight-week placement for NHS management trainees. 10 national health service trainees worked in the Department during this time.

All of the placements were from the United Kingdom and our records show none lived in the Bassetlaw constituency.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 084 telephone numbers are in use by GP surgeries in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* Southampton. [52847]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally. The Department does not require primary care trusts to have a record of those practices using 084 numbers.

Health Professions: Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated for nursing, midwifery and other allied health professional education in each region in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; how much funding he expects to be so allocated in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [54084]

Anne Milton: Funding of education and training for nursing, midwifery and allied health professionals is issued to strategic health authorities (SHAs) through the multi-professional education and training (MPET) budget. MPET is not ring-fenced by profession and it is the responsibility of SHAs to invest the budget to ensure the correct number of training places are available to meet the needs of the local population.

Health Professions: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many places at each university in England there were for nursing, midwifery and other allied health professional education in *(a)* pre-registration education, *(b)* post-registration education, *(c)* continuing professional development in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; how many such places he expects there to be in (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13 and (C) 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [54083]

Anne Milton: Information on nursing, midwifery and allied health professional places at universities is not collected by the Department. It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities to individually manage contracts with higher education institutions based on local work force planning and education commissioning decisions.

Health Services: Equality

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage multi-disciplinary teams to undertake patient-level equality audits. [53356]

Paul Burstow: 'Reducing cancer inequality: evidence, progress and making it happen', the March 2010 report of the National Cancer Equality Initiative (NCEI), said that it would be good practice for multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) to undertake equality audits, reflecting annually on their practice and documenting their findings. It set out plans to support this. 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' (January 2011) said that patient characteristic profiles would be made available to MDTs and that, in future, MDT health equality audits would form part of the National Cancer Peer Review Programme.

The annual self-assessment for peer review, introduced this year, requires that MDTs answer the question "How many patients by equality characteristic (race, age and gender) were diagnosed/treated in the previous year?" as one of the MDT key themes covering the structure and function of the service.

Working with the National Cancer Intelligence Network and the National Cancer Action Team, NCEI is investigating what support might be provided to MDTs to undertake patient-level equality audits.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Department for Education, *(b)* the Department for Communities and Local Government, *(c)* the Local Government Association and *(d)* other organisations on adaptation of policies and procedures used in children's services for use with adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [52856]

(2) what representations his Department has received on the adaptation of policies and procedures used in children's services for use with adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [52857]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that policies and procedures used in children's services are adequately adapted for use with adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [52858]

(4) what steps he is taking to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* assess the adaptation of policies and procedures used in children's services for use with adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [52881]

Paul Burstow: Following the publication of Professor Mansell's report 'Raising Our Sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities' which was commissioned by this Department, departmental officials have had general discussions with key partners, including the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Communities and Local Government, regarding the report's recommendations. However, no discussion has taken place on the specific issue about adaptation of policies and procedures used in children's services for use with adults who have profound and multiple learning disabilities. Neither have we received any representations on this issue.

Departmental officials have worked closely with DfE officials to build the learning from the Valuing People Now employment work in to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Green Paper 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability'. The Green Paper focuses on improving employment and other life outcomes and takes forward learning from the Getting a Life project—aimed at young people with severe learning disabilities leaving education.

The Government's response to Professor Mansell's report highlighted our commitment to improving outcomes for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Health Services: Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical staff were employed by (i) John Radcliffe hospital, (iii) NHS Oxfordshire primary care trust and (iii) the NHS in Oxfordshire in each of the last five years. [52844]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of medical and non-medical staff employed by John Radcliffe hospital and Oxfordshire primary care trust (PCT) and the national health service in Oxfordshire in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in each specified organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Headcount 2010*
Total specified organisations:	15,738	15,534	16,905	17,793	17,745
Medical and Dental staff	1,620	1,785	2,027	2,124	1,715
Non-Medical Staff	14,118	13,749	14,878	15,669	16,030
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	935	899	882	977	936
Medical and Dental staff	86	72	99	108	104
Non-Medical Staff	849	827	783	869	832
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	8,987	8,514	9,278	9,847	9,697
Medical and Dental staff	1,235	1,399	1,636	1,732	1,356
Non-Medical Staff	7,752	7,115	7,642	8,115	8,341
Oxfordshire PCT	2,329	2,355	2,812	2,706	2,810
Medical and Dental staff	95	98	83	77	55
Non-Medical Staff	2,234	2,257	2,729	2,629	2,755
Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust	1,129	1,147	1,164	1,166	1,112
Medical and Dental staff	31	32	29	27	29
Non-Medical Staff	1,098	1,115	1,135	1,139	1,083
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	2,358	2,619	2,769	3,097	3,229
Medical and Dental staff	173	184	180	180	171
Non-Medical Staff	2,185	2,435	2,589	2,917	3,058

Notes:

1. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication here:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-numbers

Headcount numbers in 2010 have also for some trusts been affected by clarification of the hosting arrangements for medical and dental staff.

2. Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Health Services: Staffordshire

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bowel cancer screening appointments are outstanding at University Hospital North Staffordshire; what recent estimate has been made of average *(a)* waiting times and *(b)* times taken for results to be processed in respect of such appointments; and if he will make a statement. [52984]

Paul Burstow: The information is not held by the Department in the format requested. More information on the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening programme can be found on the website at:

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/bowel/index.html

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is available for *(a)* hip and *(b)* knee replacement operations at University Hospital North Staffordshire. [52985]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not centrally collected. It is the responsibility of the local national health service to assess the effectiveness of the services it provides and ensure that appropriate services are accessible to its local population.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staffing establishment is for each grade of health professional in maternity services at University Hospital North Staffordshire; what the current vacancy list is; what assessment has been made of future resourcing needs; and if he will make a statement. [52986]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not available in the format requested.

The number of medical staff in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialty and non-medical maternity services staff in the University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust as at 30 September 2010 is shown in the following table.

	Headcount
Medical staff in Obstetrics and Gynaecology	37
Consultant	12
Registrar group	21
Senior house officer	1
Foundation year 2	1
House officer and foundation year 1	2
All non-medical maternity services staff	391
Qualified maternity services staff	305
Modern matron	3
Manager	2
Registered midwife	240
Other 1st level nursing	59
Other 2nd level nursing	1
Unqualified maternity services staff	86
Nursery nurse	5
Healthcare assistant	81

The University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust reported one vacancy for a consultant in the obstetrics and gynaecology specialty, and no vacancies for midwives in the March 2010 vacancies survey. The vacancies survey does not isolate any other obstetrics and gynaecology staff or non-medical maternity services staff. March 2010 is the latest available vacancy data.

It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to plan and deliver a workforce appropriate to the needs of their local population, based on clinical need and sound evidence.

Hospitals: Closures

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to prevent NHS hospitals from closing. [52990]

Mr Simon Burns: We are taking the opportunity of a natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to pause, listen, reflect and improve.

We will hold a series of events, led by the NHS Future Forum, to hear from the public, patients and a range of people working right at the frontline, and speak directly to those who lead our national health service,

Public accountability and patient involvement is one of the four areas we are focusing on during the Listening Exercise. We want to ensure we make the NHS properly accountable to the public, and put patient involvement at the heart of decision making. We will then decide how to take forward the Bill in a way that reflects what we have heard.

Under the proposals currently set out in the Health and Social Care Bill, commissioners would remain responsible for securing continued provision of NHS services to meet the needs of their populations. We are proposing to support commissioners in this by introducing a comprehensive system of regulation at national level and additional regulation of 'designated services'.

Commissioners would consult with local communities and apply for local services to be 'designated', as subject to additional regulation, where the withdrawal of those services would impact adversely on health and where there are no alternative providers. This would ensure patients in England have continued access to designated services, wherever they happen to live.

Low Associates

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* any other representative of the Department has hosted any meeting with (i) Low Associates and (ii) any client of Low Associates in the last six months. [53137]

Mr Simon Burns: Neither the Secretary of State for Health or any of his ministerial colleagues have had any meetings with Low Associates. My right hon. Friend has formally declared his wife's position as managing director of Low Associates to the permanent secretary (which was subsequently included in the List of Ministers' Interests published on the Cabinet Office website) and taken appropriate steps to avoid any conflict of interest with his ministerial duties. All ministerial meetings with external organisations are published quarterly on the Department's website.

It would incur disproportionate cost to check whether any officials from the Department have met with Low Associates. The Department does not hold details of Low Associates clients.

Medical Equipment: Counterfeit Manufacturing

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department holds on the safety of counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors found in NHS hospitals; [52895]

(2) what steps are being taken to withdraw counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors which have been found in NHS hospitals; [52914]

(3) how many counterfeit items of medical equipment have been found in NHS hospitals in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [52915]

(4) what communication the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has received from other EU countries on the circulation of counterfeit medical equipment to hospitals; [52916]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 666W, on medical equipment: counterfeit manufacturing, whether the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has received any recent reports of counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors that have been found to be unsafe. [53186]

Mr Simon Burns: We hold no information on the accuracy and safety of the counterfeit devices in question, as they have not been validated through the genuine manufacturers' conformity assessment procedures. All such devices should be quarantined and returned to the manufacturer of the genuine product for authentication.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a Medical Devices Alert to all national health service trusts which requests withdrawal of these counterfeit devices from NHS hospitals and their return to the manufacturers of the legitimate products and that MHRA are informed.

The number of counterfeit medical devices that have been found to have reached the NHS supply chain in the last three years is as follows:

	Number
2009	[1]110,000
2010	0
2011	306

[1] The 2009 figure consists of a single large seizure of a high volume consumable device which could distort the overall extent of the problem.

Under the Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EC, member states are required to share information on serious incidents and recalls of medical devices with other member states where the products are marketed. Administrative systems also exist to exchange information, liaise and collaborate with other member states on compliance matters including instances of counterfeit medical equipment found in the supply chain.

No recent reports have been made to the MHRA of counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors having been found to be unsafe.

Mental Illness

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Newham and *(c)* West Ham constituency were diagnosed with a mental illness in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011 to date. [53324]

Paul Burstow: The information is not collected in the format requested. The following table shows the number of finished consultant episodes for the most recent periods available. Figures are broken down to primary care trust (PCT) populations and cannot be separated out further.

Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a mental health primary diagnosis (ICD-10 codes F00-F99) by year

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England	218,924	211,408	205,869	204,800
Newham PCT	1,322	1,356	1,264	1,545

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Neurological Conditions: Health Services

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the location is of each NHS specialist neurological unit. [52947]

Paul Burstow: Information on the location of each specialist neurological unit is not collected centrally.

NHS: Complaints

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of complaints referred to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman were upheld in the latest period for which figures are available. [52835]

Mr Simon Burns: The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) is independent of both the Department and the Government and it is therefore not usually appropriate for officials and Ministers to answer on behalf of the PHSO.

However, in these circumstances the information is available in the public domain and can be provided.

The most recent data that have been published are for 2009-10. Those were published in the PHSO's annual report (Listening and Learning the Ombudsman's review of complaint handling in the NHS 2009-10).

In 2009-10, PHSO received 14,429 health complaints.

In 2009-10, PHSO reported on 180 investigation complaints, of which 113 (63%) were upheld.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time taken to complete an independent investigation by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman was in the latest period for which figures are available. [52836]

Mr Simon Burns: The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) is independent of both the Department and the Government and it is therefore not usually appropriate for officials and Ministers to answer on behalf of the PHSO.

However, in these circumstances the information is available in the public domain and can be provided.

In 2009-10, the PHSO set a target to conclude 55%, of all investigations within 12 months. This includes both health and parliamentary investigations.

In 2009-10, the PHSO concluded 65%, of investigations (health and parliamentary) within 12 months.

The target for 2010-11 is to complete 90% of investigations within 12 months.

NHS: Manpower

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of NHS staff in England were doctors in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2010; [53220]

(2) how many nurses worked in the NHS in England in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1985, *(c)* 1990, *(d)* 1995, *(e)* 2000, *(f)* 2005 and *(g)* 2010; [53221]

(3) what proportion of NHS staff in England were nurses in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2010; [53222]

(4) how many doctors worked in the NHS in England in the years *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1985, *(c)* 1990, *(d)* 1995, *(e)* 2000, *(f)* 2005 and *(g)* 2010. [53223]

Mr Simon Burns: Comparable figures for all national health service staff numbers are not available for 1981, 1985 and 1990. Prior to 1995 the NHS workforce was monitored on an entirely different basis relating to pay scales which would result in the information captured for Medical and Dental and Non-Medical Hospital and Community Health Services staff (the majority of NHS) not being comparable to the data collected since then.

Because of this step-change in how the data were recorded and collected it has been standard practice not to provide time series on the NHS workforce that predate the 1995 improvements to methodology as these figures are confusing and do not represent a fair or accurate figure.

The following table gives the number of staff employed in the specialities requested in 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010.

Numbers of doctors and nurses in the NHS and their proportion of total staff in England for selected years

	1995	*2000*	*2005*	*2010*[1]
All NHS Staff[2,3]	1,052,428	1,117,841	1,365,388	1,431,145
Proportion of which Doctors (percentage)	8.0	8.6	9.0	9.8
Proportion of which Nurses (percentage)	30.1	30.1	29.6	28.7
All Doctors[2,3]	84,459	96,319	122,345	140,914
Of which:				
General Practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers)[2]	28,869	30,252	35,302	38,997
All Medical and Dental Staff[3]	55,590	66,067	87,043	101,917
Total Qualified Nursing Staff	316,893	335,952	404,161	410,615
Of which:				
Qualified Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) nurses (including qualified bank nurses)	298,650	316,752	381,257	389,290
GP Practice Nurses	18,243	19,200	22,904	21,325

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication here:
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf
Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
[2] GP Retainers were first collected in 1999 and have been omitted from the time series for comparability purposes.
[3] Excludes medical Hospital Practitioners and medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

Notes:
1. Comparable figures for NHS Staff figures are not available for 1981, 1985 and 1990.
2. Data as at 30 September each year for Medical and Dental workforce figures and Non-Medical figures.
3. Data as at 1 October 1995 and 30 September 2000-2010 for GP workforce figures.

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients receiving NHS treatment for non-Hodgkins lymphoma in England per head of the population in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [52774]

Paul Burstow: No assessment has been made of the number of patients receiving national health service treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in England per head of population as information is not collected in this format. Information regarding finished consultant episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma from 2005-06 to 2009-10 is provided in the following table.

We know that in 2008, there were just over 9,000 newly diagnosed cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" (January 2011) set out a range of measures to improve outcomes for all patients, including those diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The strategy is backed by more than £750 million over the next four years. It sets out our plans to improve earlier diagnosis, access to screening, treatment, patients' experience of care and the quality of life for cancer survivors.

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Finished consultant episodes (FCEs)
2009-10	107,150
2008-09	102,561
2007-08	101,059
2006-07	97,081
2005-06	92,237

Notes:
1. FCE: A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
2. Data quality: The number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record. ICD-10 codes used for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma:
C82—Follicular (nodular) non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
C83—Diffuse non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
C85—Other and unspecified types of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
3. Assessing growth through time: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. Activity included: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
5. Source statement: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the list of specified conditions that qualify patients for a medical exemption certificate. [52703]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2009, Professor Sir Ian Gilmore carried out a review to consider how to extend free prescriptions to all those with long-term conditions. This review made a number of proposals, and was published in May 2010 by the Government.

We announced in the spending review that to ensure spending in the national health service is focused on priorities, some programmes announced by the previous Government would not be implemented—including proposals to extend free prescriptions to all those with long-term conditions.

We are continuing to explore options for reforming the current prescription charging arrangements taking into account the financial context. We have no current plans for a further review of prescription charges.

Prosthetics

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in England with lost limbs in the latest period for which figures are available. [52709]

Paul Burstow: Central data are not collected about the numbers of people with limb loss, although data provided through the Hospital Episodes Statistics show that nearly 6,000 finished consultant episodes recorded limb amputation during 2009-10.

Information gathered in 2008, involving voluntary organisations, estimated there are about 60,000 people with prostheses and about 10,000 of them have upper limb prostheses.

St Helens and Whiston Hospital Trust

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the details of the proposed tripartite agreement between St Helens and Whiston Hospital Trust, the strategic health authority and his Department which outlines the options to deal with that trust's budget deficit. [52718]

Mr Simon Burns: Tripartite formal agreements (TFAs) are an integral part of ensuring that all national health service trusts submit an application for foundation trust (FT) status to the Department by 1 April 2013 in their own right, or another solution is identified and implemented so that they achieve FT status by 1 April 2014.

The agreements will identify the issues each NHS trust faces and the actions that will establish them as sustainable providers of high quality health care services. These developments will enable them to meet the demanding requirements needed to achieve FT status.

Work on the TFA between St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust, North West Strategic Health Authority and the Department has not yet been completed. When it has been finalised and the agreement has been signed by all parties, the trust will publish the agreement on their website.

Tobacco: EU Law

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's response to the consultation on the possible revision of the Tobacco Products Directive. [53160]

Anne Milton: The Government's response to the European Commission's consultation on the possible revision to the European Union tobacco products directive has been placed in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 5 May 2011

SCOTLAND

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its predecessor paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54692]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has paid no moneys in respect of damages, claimant costs or defendant costs in any of the last three years.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the staff vacancy rate was for his Department in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [54201]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office keeps its staffing complement under constant review to ensure that the most efficient use is made of public resources.

The staff vacancy rate for 2010-11 was 2.5%. We project that a similar rate will apply for 2011-12.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what representations the Church Commissioners have received on the role of churches in rural communities; and if he will make a statement. [51914]

Tony Baldry: Churches play an important and often essential role in rural community life. As well as organising church-based activities and events, members of rural congregations take part in a wide range of other non-church community organisations, events and activities, contributing their time and skills to groups that help deliver the big society in rural places.

A 2006 study carried out by the university of Coventry, "Faith in Rural Communities: contributions of social capital to community vibrancy", looked at six different rural settlements and several different church denominations. It found that in several of the places studied church members made such a significant contribution to non-church activities and events that in many cases the community would cease to effectively function without their activities. Other research reports that explore the contribution of rural churches to rural community life include: "Faith in the Community—the contribution of faith-based organisations to rural voluntary action" (NCVO, 2007) and "Building Better Neighbourhoods—the contribution of faith communities to Oxfordshire Life" (university of Coventry, 2010).

Informal networks and relationships are among the most important contributions that rural church congregations make to rural community life. As well as offering regular opportunities for collective worship and prayer, rural church congregations can give care and support to those suffering isolation and loneliness. Church buildings often act as places where barriers are broken down between different social groups and people have the opportunity to meet together on equal terms, and provide spaces in which events, activities and meetings can take place. Though not all rural churches are suitable for the purpose, some already run formally constituted projects or initiatives, such as pre-schools, youth clubs or facilities for older residents. In some places the church building has been adapted to house specific services such as a Sure Start centre, post office, a community owned shop or library.

Clergy: Ethnic Groups

John Robertson: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, how many vicars of the Church of England from black and minority ethnic backgrounds there were in each year since 2000. [51707]

Tony Baldry: The Church of England undertook the first comprehensive clergy survey in 2005 to measure diversity.

This revealed that 2.2% of Anglican Church of England Clergy self-identified with black or minority ethnic backgrounds.

An ongoing process of monitoring and data collection will enable a 2010 diversity estimate to be published at the meeting of the General Synod in York this July.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Independent Panel on Forestry: Internet

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when the Independent Panel on Forestry will publish its meeting dates on her Department's website; and if she will ensure that the panel's meeting dates are published on that website in advance of them taking place; [54042]

(2) what guidance or advice she or her officials have provided to the Forestry Panel in respect of the information it should publish following its meetings. [54059]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* The next three meeting dates for the Independent Panel on Forestry are on the DEFRA website. Further details of how the panel will operate and how it will gather views and information will be published on the website soon.

The intention in setting up the panel was to provide an independent review of the issues involved. There is a wide spread of interest in the panel's work and that makes it particularly important for the panel to engage people and to be open in its work but, ultimately how the panel achieves that will be its decision.

Water

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on allowing non-household customers in England and Wales to choose their water and wastewater retailer without the setting of a threshold regime. [54134]

Richard Benyon: Currently non-household customers that use 50 megalitres or more of water a year can switch their water supplier under the water supply licensing regime (WSL). The same customers in the areas of water companies wholly or mainly in England can also replace their local water and sewerage company under the inset regime. In the areas of water companies wholly or mainly in Wales the inset eligibility threshold is 250 megalitres.

The Government intend to lower the 50 megalitre threshold to 5 megalitres for England as soon as we can. The Water White Paper, due to be published in the autumn, will consider recommendations made by Professor Cave in his independent review of competition and innovation in water markets to extend competition in the sector. These included extending the WSL regime to cover sewerage services and the removal of the WSL threshold altogether to extend choice to all non-household customers.

Decisions on extending competition to non-household customers in the areas of water companies based wholly or mainly in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations she has carried out on whether to abolish the retail threshold for non-household customers in England and Wales. [54135]

Richard Benyon: The Government will consider the case for removing the retail threshold in the Water White Paper which is due to be published in the autumn. In developing policy for the Water White Paper we will consult a wide range of stakeholders, including water companies, new entrants, regulators and customers.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has estimated the number of *(a)* businesses and *(b)* public sector organisations in England and Wales who would experience a reduction in their water bills as a result of the introduction of non-household water and waste water competition. [54136]

Richard Benyon: The Government have not conducted any research on the types of customers that may benefit from lower bills should competition be extended to all non-household customers in England and Wales.

However, if the UK and Welsh Assembly Governments were to remove the current eligibility threshold from legislation there would be approximately 1.2 million customers eligible to switch suppliers. Some 1.1 million customers would be eligible if the threshold was only lowered in the areas of water companies wholly or mainly in England.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has assessed the potential effects on water use efficiency arising from the introduction of non-household water and waste water competition in England and Wales. [54137]

Richard Benyon: The Water White Paper, due to be published in the autumn, will consider various effects of extending competition in the water sector in England and Wales, including the possible consequences on water use efficiency.

Water: Scotland

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department *(a)* has conducted research and *(b)* plans to commission research on the effects on water use efficiency of the introduction of non-household water and waste water competition in Scotland. [54138]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not commissioned any research into the water competition regime operating in Scotland and has no plans to do so in the foreseeable future.

The Water White Paper, due to be published in the autumn, will consider the recommendations made by Professor Martin Cave in his independent review of competition and innovation in water markets to extend competition in the water sector in England and Wales. Professor Cave's recommendations would make the retail regime for water supply similar to that currently operating in Scotland. We will take account of new evidence on benefits for customers and water efficiency that has been published by the Water Industry Commissioner for Scotland and others since Professor Cave produced his report as we develop our policy for the Water White Paper.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the costs of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. [54652]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to simplifying the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme in order to reduce the burden on participants while maintaining the incentives on participants to implement cost effective energy efficiency measures.

An amendment order containing the first tranche of amendments to the CRC came into force on 1 April 2011. Further proposals will be brought forward this year following consideration of simplification suggestions we have received from participants to date.

The cost of CRC allowances to cover participants' 2011-12 energy use was set in Budget 2011 at £12. Draft regulations to implement allowance sales will be published later in 2011.

Energy: Billing

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether energy companies which take payments from customers by direct debit are required to return credit balances to customers at certain times of the year; and if he will make a statement. [54140]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including customer payments. Gas and electricity suppliers customarily review individual customers' direct debit arrangements annually. The payments are adjusted in the light of the customer's energy use over the previous 12 months and any changes in energy prices in order to avoid excess credit balances. Generally any credit built up over the summer will be used to offset the customer's higher consumption expected during the winter.

Suppliers set their own level of credit a customer must hold before a refund is offered automatically but customers may review their gas and electricity accounts and discuss the level of payments with their supplier at any time, and may request a manual credit refund based on a meter reading.

Energy: Housing

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the adequacy of finance available to householders through the Green Deal to support a whole house approach to energy efficiency. [54243]

Gregory Barker: We remain confident that commercial finance will be available to support the Green Deal and are working closely with the financial sector to ensure that the regulatory framework allows for the provision of finance at the lowest possible cost.

The legislation which provides the regulatory framework for the Green Deal will come into force in late 2012 subject to parliamentary approval. The provider market for the Green Deal is still emerging and with it demand for finance. We are aware that the finance community is showing strong interest in the opportunities created by the Green Deal and that there are a number of potential Green Deal providers currently in discussion with their banks regarding financing.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the level of philanthropic giving to the arts in each of the *(a)* last four years and *(b)* next four years. [53315]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: According to Arts and Business' annual survey of private investment in culture, over the last four years individual giving to culture, including the arts, is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	298.4
2007-08	382.1
2008-09	363.1
2009-10	359.3

Given the complexity of issues which affect levels of philanthropic giving, from macroeconomic factors to the individual motivations and circumstances of donors, I would not be inclined to forecast figures for the next four years. By reforming the nation's economy, creating economic stability and sustainable growth, the Government will help to create the conditions in which philanthropy can flourish.

My Department and Arts Council England are investing £80 million in a match-funding programme which will raise at least an equivalent amount from private donors. The match funding scheme is one of a suite of tools being developed to help build the skills and potential of arts organisations to increase levels of private giving. This is intended to contribute to the long-term financial resilience of the sector, and help support sustained cultural excellence.

Furthermore, in this year's Budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a package of measures which will boost philanthropic giving in the arts and represent the most radical and most generous reforms to charitable giving for more than 20 years.

Creative Industries Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the name is of *(a)* the chair and *(b)* each member of the Creative Industries Council. [54305]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Creative Industries Council will be jointly chaired by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and myself.

Membership of the Council will include business and trade association representatives of each of the sub-sectors included in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) definition of creative industries. The full list of members has not yet been finalised, and will inevitably evolve over time. However, the names of those invited to the first Council meeting on 6 July 2011 will be published in due course.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date the first meeting of the Creative Industries Council is to take place. [54306]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Creative Industries Council will meet officially for the first time on 6 July 2011.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of the recent transfer of responsibilities from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. [53273]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The cost of the transfer of responsibilities from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has been limited to some essential spend on IT equipment, data transfer, accommodation and move costs, and totals around £170,000. These relate to DCMS costs alone.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many interns his Department employs. [53295]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* My Department is not employing any interns at this time.

Fashion: Media Portrayal

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has assessed the effect on levels of *(a)* bulimia and *(b)* anorexia nervosa of the portrayal of models in the fashion and beauty industry. [53766]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

No such assessment has been made. However, concern has been voiced about the impact of media portrayal of thin models. The Government keep these matters under review and the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport remains in regular touch with the principal regulatory bodies in the media whose responsibility it is to ensure that matters of serious public concern continue to be addressed by their codes.

Film: Industry

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which organisation will be responsible for *(a)* ensuring diversity and inclusion within the film industry, *(b)* leading on copyright exceptions, orphan works, ownership of film rights, distribution and intellectual property within the film industry and *(c)* leading the UK's film industry export strategy following the closure of the UK Film Council; and what funding has been allocated for each such function during the comprehensive spending review period. [53274]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The information is as follows:

(a) The British Film Institute (BFI), which has a long and proud track-record of commitment to diversity.

(b) Policy regarding aspects of copyright such as orphan works, copyright exceptions and the licensing framework is dealt with by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), under Baroness Wilcox, Minister for Intellectual Property.

(c) BFI will lead the export strategy, in partnership with Film London and with support from BAFTA and BBC Worldwide to build on existing capacities and connections to explore showcasing and promoting British films outside the UK.

In the recent spending review we have protected the BFI (which has been cut by 15%) as well as key activities that will transfer to the BFI and Film London. As outlined previously, the key elements of support for the UK film industry are maintained—the tax relief, which is worth about £100 million per year and the share of lottery proceeds which will increase from the current £27 million a year to £43 million by 2014. A film policy review later this year will look at priorities for spending public money going forward.

Museums and Galleries

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will put in place arrangements to assess the potential effects of reductions in local government, regional development agency and higher education expenditure on admission charges to local and regional museums; and if he will publish each assessment. [53940]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) monitors the overall effects of changes in local government, regional development agency and higher education funding to local and regional museums, particularly the effects of funding changes on the museums funded through the Government's Renaissance in the Regions programme. There are no plans to put mechanisms in place to monitor the specific impact of changes in these funding streams on the price of admission to local and regional museums.

Private Healthcare

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any officials in his Department have private health care funded as part of their employment terms and conditions. [53278]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: There are no officials in my Department that have private health care funded as part of their employment terms and conditions.

Rugby: World Cup

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial support his Department is providing to support the hosting of the 2013 Rugby League World Cup. [53310]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Minister for Sport and the Olympics met with the executive chairman and chief executive of the Rugby Football League on 7 April to discuss the 2013 World Cup. We are keeping the funding situation under review pending the decision by the North West Development Agency which is due by the end of May.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

New Businesses

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has for future support for women wishing to start new businesses. [54186]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to increasing the number of women and men setting up businesses and are taking wide ranging action to support them in doing so. For example, the New Enterprise Allowance will provide mentors and financial support to help the unemployed become self-employed. We also want to reduce the red tape that too many small businesses say holds them back, so we have set up a new website, The Red Tape Challenge, so that people affected by these regulations can tell us what works, what should be improved and what should be removed.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53811]

Mr Paterson: The information is as follows:

(a) Hillsborough Castle and Estate;

(b) The Square,
Hillsborough,
Co Down,
Northern Ireland
BT26 6AG.

The asset value published in the 2009-10 Financial Statements as at 31 March 2010 was £59,963,000.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Libya

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pilots previously assigned as instructors are flying combat missions in Afghanistan and Libya for each aircraft type. [53572]

Nick Harvey: Each flying squadron has at least one qualified flying instructor permanently assigned to check and maintain standards of frontline aircrew; these aircrew routinely deploy with their squadron on operations. Since operations began in Libya, one Tornado GR4, two Typhoon and two E-3D flying instructors have been assigned to squadrons in support of operations. One Sentinel and two VC-10 flying instructors are also currently assigned to support both Libyan and Afghanistan operations.

Armed Forces: Pay

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to change the levels of specialist payments to the Special Air Service and other special forces personnel. [54245]

Mr Robathan: Pay for the armed forces is recommended by the independent Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) who during 2010-11 conducted a quinquennial review of special forces remuneration. Due to the public sector pay freeze the AFPRB did not recommend increases to the rates of basic pay for special forces, but it did recommend enhancements to specialist pay levels paid to the Special Reconnaissance Regiment and niche capability groups working in support of special forces. All these recommendations were accepted and introduced from 1 April 2011. In addition, we have asked the AFPRB to undertake a fundamental review of all aspects of specialist pay for its 2012 report to ensure it remains an appropriate selective mechanism to aid recruitment and retention.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the average reduction in income for service personnel as a result of reductions to military allowances; and if he will make a statement. [54314]

Mr Robathan: No. The purpose of allowances is to reimburse service personnel for justifiable expenditure incurred either when on duty or as a result of the unique nature of service life, rather than to supplement income. The current financial position has placed pressure on the level of allowances that are affordable. While there will be some reductions and changes, appropriate allowances will continue in the future. Operational allowances are not affected by these changes. We accept that changes to the allowances package will be unpopular and that some of them may require adjustments to lifestyle, but they are a necessary part of the Department's contribution to the overall Government's programme to reduce the UK deficit we inherited. Nevertheless, we have concentrated on ensuring, where possible, that no group is disproportionately affected by any changes, and have sought to mitigate effects by phasing in some changes by up to two years. The Service Chiefs of Staff and their Principal Personnel Officers have been fully engaged in this process.

Individuals who believe they will be placed in financial difficulty by the changes have been directed to inform their Chain of Command.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he has allocated under each budget heading to his Department's science and technology budget for 2011-12. [54143]

Peter Luff: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 214-15W.

Following the conclusion of Planning Round 11, we are finalising detailed budget allocations. However, the Ministry of Defence's science and technology budget is expected to rise in cash terms over the spending review period.

RFA Fort Victoria

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* projected and *(b)* actual cost of reactivating RFA Fort Victoria was following the period of extended readiness. [53769]

Mr Robathan: RFA Fort Victoria was placed in extended readiness from April 2007 to March 2009, immediately after which she underwent a refit period to prepare her for re-entering the active fleet. The cost of this refit period was projected to be £20.3 million in 2009, while the final cost was £22.8 million.

Service Complaints Commissioner

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has made an assessment of the recommendations of the Annual Report 2010 by the Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces. [54144]

Mr Robathan: We are grateful to the Service Complaints Commissioner for her continuing work in this area. We are currently considering the Service Complaints Commissioner's report and will place a copy of our response in the Library of the House in due course.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of introducing individual voter registration. [53229]

Mr Harper: A total of £99 million was allocated at the spending review last year to meet the cost of implementing individual electoral registration, including £85 million resource and £14 million capital funding the vast majority of which is to fund registration officers to make contact with each potential elector individually and invite them to register in 2014. Following the conclusion of the data-matching pilot schemes at the end of this year, a decision will be taken on whether to fund the roll-out of data-matching across Great Britain.

The cost of implementing individual registration in this Parliament represents a saving to the taxpayer of an estimated £74.5 million to £77.8 million. This cost reflects the Government's decision not to proceed with the previous Government's plans to introduce individual registration on a voluntary basis in parallel to the existing system.

Referendums: Republic of Ireland

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what reciprocal referendum voting rights exist for citizens of the UK and the Republic of Ireland; and when he last discussed such rights with his Irish counterpart. [52909]

Mr Harper: The question of who is entitled to vote in any particular referendum in the UK will be considered and determined in the light of the subject matter. The franchise for each referendum is commonly set out in the primary legislation which establishes that a referendum is to be held. The franchise for referendums in the Republic of Ireland is a matter for Irish law.

The Deputy Prime Minister has not discussed the matter of reciprocal referendum voting rights with either the former or current Tanaiste.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

First-time Buyers

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government plans to take to provide assistance for those purchasing a home for the first time in the next 12 months. [53622]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to supporting those who aspire to own their own home. I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 738, to my hon. Friend the Member for Battersea (Jane Ellison) and on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 729-30, to my hon. Friend the Member for Aberconwy (Guto Bebb) and my right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes),

Since the announcement of the FirstBuy scheme in the Budget, the Homes and Communities Agency has invited house builders, who will co-fund the scheme, to bring forward offers by 19 May, with the aim of assisting over 10,000 first-time buyers in the next two years.

Homelessness

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of homelessness. [53613]

Grant Shapps: This Government are committed to tackling homelessness and supporting the vulnerable. We have protected homelessness prevention grant funding, with £400 million over the spending review period. For 2011-12, we have announced allocations of £81.5 million for local authorities and £18.5 million for the voluntary sector to support their work to tackle and prevent homelessness.

We have made an additional £190 million available for discretionary housing payments and other forms of practical support alongside the Government's package of welfare reform measures.

And we are working closely with the National Homelessness Advisory Service to ensure front-line advice workers have the support they need to tackle homelessness effectively.

We have also established a cross-government working group on homelessness bringing together Ministers from eight Government Departments to address the complex causes of homelessness and rough sleeping. The Ministerial Working Group will publish a report before the summer recess. A new approach to evaluating rough sleeping levels has been introduced so that there is clear information in all areas, to inform service provision and action to address the problem.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Internship Pilot Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many places will be available on the Civil Service internship pilot scheme at *(a)* undergraduate level, *(b)* college level and *(c)* secondary school level. [54063]

Mr Maude: At undergraduate level, there will be 75 internship places available in 2011, via the Fast Stream Summer Diversity Internship Programme. The Civil

Service Whitehall Internship Scheme pilot will also offer 60 places at college level and 120 places at secondary school level.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which schools and colleges have been approached to participate in the Civil Service internship pilot scheme; and what the criteria were for their selection. [54064]

Mr Maude: Schools for the pilot programme are being selected through liaison with the Department for Education (DFE). The criteria that have been used to identify the schools are:

Percentage pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is higher than the national average; or

Percentage ethnic minority pupils is higher than the national average.

Six schools are being identified to participate in the college level scheme and 10 schools for the secondary school scheme. It is expected that the names of the schools and colleges which will be participating will be available by the end of May.

Contracts: ICT

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to *(a)* simplify and *(b)* increase the transparency of the procedure for ICT firms tendering for public sector contracts. [54130]

Mr Maude: The Government committed, in their ICT Strategy published in March, to act as a single customer, move away from large ICT projects by breaking down and simplifying requirements, and increase standardisation and modularisation of business processes and supporting technologies:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/government-ict-strategy

At the same time we are engaged on an implementation to apply a much streamlined approach to the procurement of a number of pathfinder projects (one of which is for ICT), based on the findings of a Lean review published in February. We are tackling pre-qualification burdens by seeking to eliminate pre-qualification questionnaires for lower-value procurements and by moving to much greater use of the open procedure, which does not have a separate selection-to-bid stage early in the process, for higher-value procurements.

Departments have been required to publish all new ICT tender documents over £10,000 since last summer and we recently launched Contracts Finder to publish additionally procurement opportunities and awarded contracts.

Contracts: Small Businesses

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Government procurement contracts were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2010. [54498]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to publishing statistics showing progress towards their aspiration that 25% of their procurement expenditure should go to SMEs, and all Departments now have business plan commitments to publish their percentage of expenditure with SMEs.

We do not hold data on the number of contracts with SMEs. However, since January 2011, Departments have been required to publish details of all new contracts over £10,000 including the identity of the contractor and whether it is an SME on the Contracts Finder website:

www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/

Some limited data on the value of Government spend with SMEs are included in the Operational Efficiency Programme Benchmarking Report for April 2009 to May 2010:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/oep-benchmarking-data-2009-10

Baseline data on the value of Government procurement contracts awarded to SMEs in 2009-10 are currently being collected and will be published once they are available.

Data are not held centrally for the periods 2004-05 or 2006-07.

Departmental Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what flights he has taken on Government business since 8 May 2010; [52130]

(2) when he last flew overseas on Government business. [52129]

Mr Maude: Information about Ministers' travel overseas is published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period 13 May to 31 December 2010 can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Information for the period 1 January-31 March 2011 is currently being compiled and will be published in due course.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53816]

Mr Maude: Information on the addresses and value of buildings owned by the Cabinet Office was published in the Department's Annual Resource Accounts 2009-10 (HC282), laid before Parliament in July 2010.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52807]

Mr Maude: We offer a minimum of three summer diversity internships for under graduates with full information available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/faststream

and a graduate internship scheme for students which is advertised through the Graduate Talent Pool hosted on the BIS Government website.

Individuals looking to undertake a work experience placement are invited to complete a pro forma to identify why they are interested in a placement in the Cabinet Office and what skills they are looking to gain through the placement.

The Cabinet Office does not offer opportunities to volunteer in the Department.

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53211]

Mr Maude: Since 8 May 2010, the Cabinet Office has offered four summer internships for undergraduate students. All four were from the UK and none were from the Bassetlaw constituency.

Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what work his Department's behavioural insight team has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake on energy and climate-related matters. [52096]

Mr Maude: The behavioural insights team is working with DECC on a range of measures to encourage individuals to introduce energy efficiency improvements, principally in domestic settings. The work is ongoing.

Departmental Correspondence

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department issues guidance to Government Departments on the use of Miss, Mrs and Ms in correspondence. [53653]

Mr Maude: There is no Cabinet Office guidance to Departments on this matter.

Departmenal Procurement

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent guidance his Department has issued on assessing the ethical implications of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas contracts held by companies bidding for public sector contracts. [54095]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not issued guidance on assessing the ethical implications of domestic or overseas contracts.

Within the overall objective of achieving the best value for money through public procurement, Government Departments will assess certain issues concerning a potential supplier's probity when selecting prospective suppliers to bid. In this regard, the Cabinet Office has issued guidance on the following matters:

The Public Contracts Regulations (2006) include a mandatory requirement for contracting authorities to exclude economic operators from public contracts where they have been convicted of certain criminal offences including participating in criminal organisations, money laundering and fraud;

Potential bidders may also be excluded from participating in the tender process on certain grounds at the discretion of the contracting authority. These grounds include circumstances where they have been convicted of an offence concerning professional misconduct; or been found guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means that the contracting authority can demonstrate.

Departments may also take into account other issues, such as labour standards, where these are relevant and proportionate to the requirement.

Supermarkets

Alison McGovern: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has had any meetings since September 2010 with representatives of *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* Sainsbury's, *(c)* Asda, *(d)* Morrisons and *(e)* trade associations of which these companies are members. [52211]

Mr Maude: Information about Ministers' meetings with external organisations is published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period 13 May to 31 December 2010 can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Information for the period 1 January to 31 March 2011 is currently being compiled will be published in due course.

TRANSPORT

West Coast InterCity Franchise

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria he plans to use to award the West Coast InterCity rail franchise for 2012 to 2026; and if he will make a statement. [54155]

Mrs Villiers: The public consultation on the InterCity West Coast franchise ended on 21 April and the Department is currently considering all responses. The criteria for awarding the franchise will be published in the Invitation to Tender document.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on Government business. [50162]

Norman Baker: All Ministers at the Department for Transport have the use of a pay-as-you-go Oyster card for travel on Government business. None of the Ministers has been issued with a monthly or annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by the Department.

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Great Western Railway

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the seated passenger capacity is of direct services between Chippenham and London Paddington using existing rolling stock; and what estimate he has made of the likely seated passenger capaCity on such services using the proposed InterCity Express Programme fleet from 2016. [53723]

Mrs Villiers: The passenger capacity of existing rolling stock operating direct services between Chippenham and London Paddington is 514 seats per train. The future likely seated passenger capacity on the same services using the InterCity Express Programme fleet would be around the same, although with the proposed doubling in train frequencies between London and Bristol, more of these seats could be available to Chippenham passengers.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration was given to the effect of the introduction of universal access to nearly free high definition video links over the internet on the number of business meetings conducted over the internet in the projected business passenger numbers for HS2. [52879]

Mr Philip Hammond: The demand forecasts for HS2 were developed in line with Department for Transport guidance and using industry and Government-standard models. These are regularly revised in the light of updated information on demand growth, which would itself reflect the effects of improvements in video conferencing and other communications technologies.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether HS2 will use *(a)* 400 and *(b)* 200 metre long trains; and what estimate has been made of the energy consumption of such trains. [52880]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd's specification for the proposed Y-shaped national high speed rail network assumes that the network would be built to be capable of carrying 400 m long trains. Both high speed and classic-compatible rolling stock sets are assumed to be 200 m long, with flexibility to join two sets together to form a 400 m train.

Information on the energy consumption of HS2 rolling stock is available in the information note published by HS2 Ltd at:

http://www.hs2.org.uk/publications/HS2-Traction-Energy-Modelling-49802

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to budget for the remedial and restoration works following the completion of construction of the High Speed Two line. [52966]

Mr Philip Hammond: Allowances for remedial and restoration works have been included in the cost estimates set out in Table 7 of the "Economic Case for HS2".

M1: Repairs and Maintenance

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's budget of repairs required to the M1 following the recent fire. [54162]

Mike Penning: That section of the M1 is under a managed contract agreement with Connect Plus. The contract indicates that there is a repair and insurance responsibility to the contractor, and no costs will be borne by the Department for Transport.

Railways: Franchises

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the reform of rail franchising; and if he will make a statement. [54152]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Government published the 'Reforming rail franchising response to consultation and policy statement' on 19 January 2011. In it, we set out, among other things, our commitment to longer franchises, less prescriptive service requirements and the transfer of stations to train operators. The Department is now considering within this framework the detailed Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the Intercity West Coast franchise.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to assist local authorities to repair potholes. [54170]

Norman Baker: We wrote to all local highway authorities on 24 March 2011 informing them of their share of an additional £200 million which we have made available for repairing damage to their road network following the severe winter weather at end of last year. The funding was paid to authorities on 28 March 2011.

Rolling Stock

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the relationship between high speed train speeds, energy consumption and safety. [54166]

Mr Philip Hammond: Detailed information on rolling stock energy consumption is available on HS2 Ltd's website. Our proposals for high speed rail are based on internationally accepted standards of safety—the European Technical Standards of Interoperability ("TSIs"). These include a number of safety requirements, such as crashworthiness and train protection measures.

Thameslink Railway Line

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the need for new train maintenance depots to support the Thameslink programme. [53837]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 May 2011]*: My officials have assessed the new train maintenance requirements and concluded that it is a necessary to construct two new depots to support the Thameslink Programme—one in North London at Hornsey in the borough of Haringey and one south of London at Three Bridges in the borough of Crawley.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Ministers or officials in his Department have held discussions with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* local authorities on the location of new train maintenance depots to support the Thameslink programme. [53838]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* My officials have had a number of discussions with Network Rail and London borough of Haringey and Crawley borough council regarding the additional train maintenance depots for the new Thameslink rolling stock.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the potential effect on *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect employment of the construction of new train maintenance depots to support the Thameslink programme. [53839]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The bidders in the competition to build the new trains and two new depots have indicated that there could be in the region of 450 people employed at the two new depots. However, the exact details will not be known until the contract is awarded later this year.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 April 2010, *Official Report*, column 1364W, on the Thameslink railway line: rolling stock, when he expects to announce a decision on the location of additional train maintenance depots for new Thameslink trains. [53840]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The Department for Transport is planning to establish two new depots to support the new fleet of Thameslink trains at Hornsey in the London borough of Haringey and at Three Bridges in the borough of Crawley. Network Rail has commenced the process for securing planning consents for these depots with the relevant local authorities and it would be inappropriate to comment on the outcome of these applications at this time.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Guided Weapons

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on possession by the military authorities in Burma of SCUD or similar missiles; and if he will make a statement. [53975]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports alleging that the Government of Burma is attempting to build medium-range missiles under its memorandum of understanding with North Korea. The Government take all such allegations seriously and remind all states to adhere to their obligations under relevant UN sanctions. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely.

Burma: Homicide

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps with his international counterparts to ensure that the alleged actions of Than Naing Lwin of the Burma army in respect of the extrajudicial execution of Saw Par Ta are investigated and that those responsible are held accountable; and if he will make a statement. [53976]

Alistair Burt: The Government are concerned by reports of an alleged attack on a Karen ethnic minority villager by the Burmese army. On the renewal of EU sanctions at the Foreign Affairs Council on 12 April 2011, EU Foreign Ministers called on the Burmese Government to end impunity for violations of human rights and to co-operate fully with the UN. The Government secured strongly worded human rights resolutions at the UN General Assembly in October 2010 and at the Human Rights Council in March 2011 which called for the Burmese authorities to end abuses against ethnic groups and to honour their commitment to undertake a full, impartial and independent investigation into all human rights violations.

Burma: Thailand

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of repatriation of Burmese refugees in camps on the border with Thailand; and if he will make a statement. [53979]

Alistair Burt: The Government have not received any recent reports that suggest Burmese refugees in camps along the Thai-Burma border have been repatriated. Our ambassador to Thailand raised concerns over allegations of forced repatriation with the governor of Tak province and the Royal Thai army on 17 January 2011. Our ambassador reinforced our concerns when he saw the Thai Foreign Minister on 19 January 2011. He raised the issue again with Thai officials on 31 March 2011. On each occasion the Thai authorities assured us that no refugees will be repatriated to Burma until it is safe for them to return. We remain in close contact with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), international donors and the Thai authorities, and continue to monitor the situation closely.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to commission a flag or standard for the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [53910]

Mr Lidington: The Sovereign Base Areas are military bases on the island of Cyprus and are administered by the Ministry of Defence. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no plans to commission a flag or standard for the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support and advice his Department offered to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of their forthcoming election. [54196]

Mr Bellingham: We continue to urge the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to ensure that presidential and national elections due to take place on 28 November 2011 are held in a timely, and transparent manner, and that the opposition can campaign freely. Free and fair elections would strengthen DRC's fragile post-conflict institutions and underpin democracy.

Our support to the elections is aimed primarily at ensuring that everyone has the right to vote, and encouraging as wide a participation as possible. Our support is focused on the following areas:

voter registration;

building the capacity of the new electoral commission;

improving public understanding of the electoral process, particularly among women and first-time voters;

helping the Congolese police to keep the peace before, during and after elections;

promoting open debate in advance of elections through support for independent Congolese media;

and funding Congolese civil society organisations working on elections-related issues through our Civil Society Fund.

Departmental Equality

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who is responsible for diversity issues within his Department. [53995]

Mr Bellingham: The Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is responsible for the management of staff within the Department, including diversity issues.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on hospitality since January 2011. [53836]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 3 May 2011]*: Figures for 2010-11 are not yet finalised owing to our end of financial year accounts work and reconciliations.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department last travelled by (i) London Underground and (ii) public bus services on government business; how many times (A) he and (B) each other Minister in his Department has travelled by each such form of transport on government business since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [50087]

Mr Lidington: Ministers travel according to the needs of security, economy and practicality. Modes of transport are not recorded centrally.

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his ministerial team have been issued with *(a)* an Oyster card and *(b)* a (i) monthly and (ii) annual travel card valid on London Transport and paid for by his Department for use while travelling on government business. [50172]

Mr Lidington: None.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50212]

Mr Lidington: I refer the hon. Member to the Quarterly returns by Ministers as published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality

Additional information on travel is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost. Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52804]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regularly receives enquiries for paid and unpaid work experience.

Those wishing to work as an intern or undertake work experience at the FCO are advised that the FCO offers a number of work experience opportunities designed to attract a talented and diverse pool of candidates. These opportunities are as follows:

the generalist work experience schemes that we currently offer are geared towards university undergraduates, whilst trying to target those students who may not normally consider a career in the FCO. This includes female students, those from an ethnic minority background or those who are in receipt of a full maintenance grant. People from these backgrounds are currently under-represented in the FCO;

the specific specialist subject work experience is offered to students from all backgrounds that study specific specialist subjects including economics and legal librarians.

Whilst we are currently offering work experience only to certain categories of people, we are fully committed to the principles of fair and open competition for permanent recruitment into the FCO.

Those wishing to work as an intern or undertake work experience at the FCO are directed to our website for further information on our schemes and employment opportunities:

www.fco.gov.uk/careers

Embassies: Theft

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of items with a monetary value *(a)* greater and *(b)* less than £100 that have been taken without authorisation from UK embassies since May 2010. [53833]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 3 May 2011]*: The information required is held separately in various Foreign and Commonwealth Office departments, all of which, hold records relating to various losses and thefts of both personal property and official furnishings, including information technology equipment losses. As this information is not held centrally, providing an accurate answer would incur disproportionate cost.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of action by the government of Sri Lanka to establish a domestic accountability process. [54128]

Alistair Burt: We have encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that its 'Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission' (LLRC) established in May last year produces recommendations that address past allegations and allow all communities in Sri Lanka to live and work together in peace and security. We have made clear our concerns about the LLRC process. We expect the LLRC to produce its final report on 15 May 2011. While we cannot predict the report's conclusions, the interim recommendations were useful and we hope the Government of Sri Lanka will use the LLRC it as an opportunity to promote national reconciliation.

Sri Lanka: War Crimes

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the investigations into war crimes allegations conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka. [54236]

Alistair Burt: The Government of Sri Lanka established a 'Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission' (LLRC) in May 2011 last year to look at conflict issues during the period 2002 to May 2009. We expect the LLRC to produce its final report on 15 May 2011. We have made clear our desire for an independent and credible inquiry into allegations of war crimes. We have also expressed our concerns about the LLRC process. While we cannot predict the outcome of the LLRC report, we have urged the Government of Sri Lanka to use it as an opportunity to promote national reconciliation.

Syria: Politics and Government

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on Iran's involvement in recent political developments in Syria. [54029]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by reports that Iran may be providing equipment and support to the Syrian Government to help them quell protests in Syria. Any such support is unacceptable. It would be a further example of Iran's monumental hypocrisy in claiming to support freedom in the Arab world, while violently suppressing demonstrations at home and helping to quell protests in Syria. As elsewhere in the region, protestors in Syria must be allowed the right to protest peacefully.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the practice of Syrian military forces dressing in civilian clothing. [54031]

Alistair Burt: We are aware there have been reports of Syrian military forces dressing in civilian clothing.

As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said in a statement on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-41, we condemn utterly the violence perpetrated by the Syrian security forces against civilians who are expressing their views in peaceful protests. We are deeply concerned by the deployment of security forces against peaceful protesters in Deraa, Douma and coastal areas. As the Prime Minister said on 3 May 2011, this violent repression is disgraceful and unacceptable. We are clear that individuals responsible for the violence will be held accountable if the violence persists.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* Arab League counterparts on the future of President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen. [54285]

Alistair Burt: The focus of the Government are in encouraging the ruling party and the official Opposition in Yemen to reach an agreement on a peaceful transition. It is for the people of Yemen to determine their future. We recognise the urgency with which a political settlement in Yemen must be reached to avoid further violence and a deepening economic crisis. To this end we have actively engaged our international partners, including the EU, to encourage unified and strong messaging to the Government of Yemen and the parliamentary Opposition.

I welcome the support given by Baroness Ashton, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission. In light of reports that both the ruling party and the opposition agreed to the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) transition plan, she issued a declaration urging all parties to move quickly to finalise the plan. Our officials have been working intensively alongside EU missions in Sana'a and European capitals to garner support for the latest initiative. Individual member states, including Italy, France, the Netherlands and Germany, have issued their own messages in support of faster progress to overcome Yemen's political impasse. We will continue to liaise with our EU counterparts to ensure further progress towards a democratic, peaceful and inclusive transitional process.

I can confirm I have discussed with the Arab League the challenges facing Yemen in the wider context of the Arab spring in the middle east. I welcome the statement issued by the Arab League in April in support of the GCC initiative to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis in Yemen.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* ministerial car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [50219]

Mr Davey: Travel undertaken by the Department's Ministers is in line with the Ministerial Code—Section 10 which provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes it clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

The costs for Minsters' travel between May 2010 and February 2011 are as follows:

(a) Ministerial cars—£287,842.74—this includes £209,888.25 paid for the period May 2010 to 1 September 2011 for previously contracted cars, including a 90 day cancellation period.

(b) Train—£26,006.13

(c) Bus—information not held

(d) Flights—£37,09194

All overseas travel by Ministers is published on a quarterly basis at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

EU Grants and Loans

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 210W, on EU grants and loans, how many of the *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful bids received for the first round of the Regional Growth Fund in each region sought to use European Regional Development Fund monies as match-funding. [53728]

Mr Prisk: There were 464 bids to the Regional Growth Fund (RGF), of these 66 mentioned bids for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding in their application, some of this was confirmed and some unconfirmed. One bid—Manchester Eye Hospital—was successful.

Officials in this Department and in the ERDF teams have worked closely together to align, where practical, the respective funds' bidding processes. Most ERDF programmes will be managing a simultaneous call for proposals to compliment the timing of the RGF's second round, with the aim of encouraging applicants to maximise the available public resource. Applicants seeking to access ERDF will however need to comply with the application process and the ERDF specific project selection criteria.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that a larger number of bids using European Regional Development Fund match-funding are successful in the second round of the Regional Growth Fund than were successful in the first round. [53731]

Mr Prisk: Success in obtaining grants from the Regional Growth Fund will be dependent on the quality of the bids, which need to demonstrate how they deliver sustainable private sector jobs and help places currently reliant upon the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector led growth.

Export Control Licences

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what mechanism his Department has put in place to ensure that export control licences are not granted in circumstances where the equipment to be sold could be used to *(a)* suppress democratic expression and *(b)* abuse human rights; [54241]

(2) what tests are applied to export control licence applications to ensure that *(a)* democratic freedoms and *(b)* human rights will not be jeopardised by granting such an application. [54242]

Mr Prisk: All UK export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated European Union (EU) and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. We will not issue any licences if to do so would be inconsistent with the criteria. Our assessment includes consideration of how an end-user is likely to use the proposed export, the circumstances in which it might be used, and whether it could exacerbate conflict or otherwise contravene the criteria.

Criterion two relates to 'the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country of final destination'. Having assessed the recipient country's attitude towards relevant principles established by international human rights instruments, we will 'not issue an export licence if there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression'.

Flexible Working

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the benefits to *(a)* businesses and *(b)* Government of extending flexible working to parents of children under 18-years-old. [53600]

Mr Davey: In 2006 the Department for Trade and Industry undertook a major study of work-life balance among British workplaces with five or more employees. The Third Work-Life Balance (WLB3) Employer Survey was designed to collect data on awareness, provision, take-up and demand in relation to work-life balance arrangements and on employers' perceptions of positive benefits and detrimental impacts arising from the provision of these arrangements.

The survey asked respondents about the effect flexible working practices had on employees and human resource management at their establishment. For each of six criteria, employers were asked whether they thought flexible working and leave arrangements had a positive, negative or no effect. Details are shown in a chart which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Over half of workplaces felt that flexible working had had a positive effect on employee relations and motivation and commitment at the workplace. Just over 40% felt the effect on recruitment, labour turnover and productivity had been positive while 38% perceived a positive effect on absenteeism.

The 3rd Worklife Balance Survey surveyed both public and private sector organisation; however no specific assessment has been made of the benefits of flexible working on the Government.

The coalition Government have committed to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees and we will launch a consultation on this commitment shortly.

Hallmarking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he held with the jewellery sector of the retail industry in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK before issuing his consultation under the Red Tape Challenge on the future of regulation of hallmarking of gold and silver articles in the UK; [53744]

(2) what consultation he held with the Assay Office in Scotland before issuing his consultation under the Red Tape Challenge in respect of regulation of hallmarking of gold and silver articles. [53745]

Mr Prisk: The Red Tape Challenge aims to take a comprehensive approach, looking widely at regulation, whether introduced through primary or secondary legislation or other means. It seeks views on where regulations are working well, as well as where they are imposing unnecessary burdens on businesses, members of the public or voluntary organisations or restricting personal freedoms. BIS Ministers regularly meet with representatives from external organisations. This information is publically available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has considered the merits of licensing jewellery retailers in place of the hallmarking of gold and silver articles in the UK. [53746]

Mr Willetts: There are no plans to replace the current regime of hallmarking in the UK. The British Hallmarking Council and the hallmarking regime were reviewed in 2010 and it was decided that both should be retained. However, hallmarking legislation is among the 21,000 regulations included in the Red Tape Challenge on which the Cabinet Office has invited views.

Regulation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the inclusion of wildlife protection measures within the scope of the Red Tape Challenge; and if he will make a statement; [52757]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the inclusion of climate change amelioration regulations in the scope of the Red Tape Challenge; and if he will make a statement; [52758]

(3) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Defence on the inclusion of climate change in the definition of national security used for the Red Tape Challenge; and if he will make a statement. [52760]

Mr Prisk: The Red Tape Challenge aims to take a comprehensive approach, looking widely at regulation, whether introduced through primary or secondary legislation or other means. It seeks views on where regulations are working well, as well as where they are imposing unnecessary burdens on businesses, members of the public or voluntary organisations or restricting personal freedoms. As well as collective ministerial agreement, BIS Ministers regularly meet with ministerial colleagues from other Departments to discuss matters of mutual interest, including the regulatory agenda.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he had with representatives of equalities organisations, prior to the publication of Red Tape Challenge, on the inclusion of the Equals in the Challenge; what assessment he has made of the ability of people facing *(a)* inequality and *(b)* discrimination to contribute to the Red Tape Challenge; and if he will make a statement. [52759]

Mr Prisk: The Red Tape Challenge aims to take a comprehensive approach, looking widely at regulation, whether introduced through primary or secondary legislation or other means. It seeks views on where regulations are working well, as well as where they are imposing unnecessary burdens on businesses, members of the public or voluntary organisations or restricting personal freedoms. We have taken into consideration the duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity for all and foster good relations. The website makes clear that the presence of a particular piece of legislation, such as the Equality Act 2010, on the website should not be read as implying any intention on the part of the Government to remove that regulation. We are committed to making this website accessible to all users, regardless of circumstances. The Accessibility Statement is available here:

http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/accessibility-statement/

Those who are unable or who would prefer not to comment on the website are invited to submit their comments via the e-mail and postal address available on the website.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the costs to the public purse of implementation of the Red Tape Challenge; and what assessment he has made of its administrative implications. [52761]

Mr Prisk: In the Budget 2011 the Government committed to reviewing the stock of over 21,000 statutory instruments and regulations in order to reduce the burden on business, members of the public and voluntary organisations. The Red Tape Challenge was launched on 7 April 2011 and is scheduled to last until April 2013. As such, it is too early to estimate the costs and benefits of the Red Tape Challenge website.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Water

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding he plans to allocate to supporting water and sanitation in Africa in each year to 2013-14. [53771]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Globally, the Department for International Development (DFID) has committed to give 15 million people access to clean drinking water; improve access to sanitation for 25 million people; improve hygiene for 15 million to help stop people getting sick. On average, over 70% of these results will be achieved in Africa.

Details of the results DFID has committed to achieve vary by country and will be published in each operational plan. These will be made available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

British Overseas Territories: Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of per capita expenditure on UK bilateral aid in the British Overseas Territories in the last year for which figures are available. [53773]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of expenditure in the last year for which figures are available (2009-10), in the British Overseas Territories, are published in 'Statistics for International Development' which is available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

and in the Library of the House. Expenditure per capita is detailed in the following table:

Territory	*Per capita (£)*
St Helena (Includes Tristan da Cunha)	5,021
Montserrat	4,153
Pitcairn Islands	33,148
Turks and Caicos Islands	259

Under the UN Charter the UK is obliged to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of the Overseas Territories. The Overseas Territories are a first call on the aid budget, as stipulated in the 2002 International Development Act.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on direct budgetary support in 2011-12. [53774]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The final levels of budget support for 2011-12 are not yet determined.

Developing Countries: Food

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what funding relating to his Department's commitment to agriculture and food security made at the G8 L'Aquila summit has been disbursed in the *(a)* agriculture, *(b)* food aid, *(c)* rural development, *(d)* safety nets and *(e)* nutrition sector to date; and what proportion of the funds each sector represents; [52405]

(2) what funding relating to his Department's commitment to agriculture and food security made at the G8 L'Aquila summit is planned for disbursement to the *(a)* agriculture, *(b)* food aid, *(c)* rural development, *(d)* safety nets and *(e)* nutrition sector; and what proportion of the funds in each sector this represents. [52411]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the last year for which figures are available (2009-10), the Department for International Development (DFID) disbursed approximately one third of its total pledge of £1.1 billion for global food security and agriculture. Spend on the areas you specifically requested is given as follows.

Budget heading	*Spend (£ million)*	*Percentage of total pledge*
Agriculture, Agro-industries, Forestry and Fishing	116.1	11
Rural Development projects	51.5	5
Development Food Aid and Food Security Assistance	26.4	2.4
Safety nets	n/a	n/a
Nutrition	n/a	n/a
Contribution through multilateral channels	123	7

Data for 2010-11 are not yet available although the effect of ministerial decisions is to secure a similar level and pattern of disbursement as in 2009-10. I have agreed plans which mean that the remaining funds to be disbursed in 2011-12 will focus on agriculture research; programmes implemented by relevant multilateral agencies such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); and through some of DFID's bilateral country programmes. DFID country teams are currently working on the detail of their operational plans which, where relevant, will include levels of intended spending on food security.

Developing Countries: Health

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding he plans to allocate to health services and systems over the comprehensive spending review period. [53772]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Detailed information on health expenditure by country programme over the comprehensive spending review period will be set out in operational plans for each DFID country office. Some operational plans are already available in the DFID website

www.dfid.gov.uk

and others will be published shortly. Additional allocations will also be made through multilateral channels contingent on sustained performance and results over the period.

Mozambique: Water

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's bilateral aid review, what estimate he has made of the cost of providing more than 500,000 poor people with access to clean water in Mozambique. [53749]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the context of the Bilateral Aid Review, the Department for International Development (DFID) estimates it will cost an average of £19 per person in rural areas to provide access to clean water in Mozambique. As such, the cost to provide 500,000 people with access to clean water was calculated at £9.6 million.

Detailed information will be set out in operational plans for each DFID country office, and published on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Nigeria: Schools

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's bilateral aid review, what estimate he has made of the cost of supporting 800,000 children in school in Nigeria. [53750]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the context of the Bilateral Aid Review, the Department for International Development (DFID) estimates it will cost an average of £60 per child to ensure an additional 800,000 children attend school in Nigeria by 2015. As such, the overall cost will be approximately £50 million. DFID Nigeria is currently designing a new education programme, and is in the process of analysing how best to get more children into school.

Detailed information will be set out in operational plans for each DFID country office, and published on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Somalia: Employment

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's bilateral aid review, what steps he plans to take to help get 45,000 people into jobs in Somalia. [53775]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Working with UN agencies, the World Bank and other development partners, the Department for International Development (DFID) has initiated a four-year sustainable employment and economic development programme. The programme aims to improve economic and employment prospects, helping 45,000 women and young men in communities affected by conflict in Somalia to secure reliable long-term jobs.

Detailed information will be set out in operational plans for each DFID country office, and published on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Trade Unions: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has any plans to give UK-based trade unions public funds from the aid budget during the comprehensive spending review period. [52688]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of our existing commitments to trade unions during the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period are available in the Library of the House.

Trade unions are eligible to apply for civil society funding during the CSR period, such as through the Global Poverty Action Fund (GPAF), in competition with other civil society organisations. Any decision to offer funding will be based on the quality of proposals submitted. We expect all proposals to demonstrate value for money in delivering real benefits for poor people while contributing to DFID's wider development goals.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Action for Employment

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseekers he estimates found work through services offered by A4E in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [53880]

Chris Grayling: The number of jobs reported by Action for Employment (A4E) for each of the last 12 months for DWP Contracted Employment Provision:

	Number
April 2010	1,990
May 2010	1,893
June 2010	2,094
July 2010	2,695
August 2010	2,194
September 2010	2,114
October 2010	2,530
November 2010	1,979
December 2010	2,572
January 2011	2,554
February 2011	1,780
March 2011	1,367

Crisis Loans

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications were made for *(a)* crisis loans and *(b)* community care grants in each (i) Jobcentre Plus and (ii) local authority area in 2010; and what proportion of such applications was granted. [54148]

Steve Webb: The available information is as follows. Information on crisis loan and community care grant applications and awards cannot be provided for each Jobcentre Plus office or local authority area; the lowest geographical information we hold is Jobcentre Plus Social Fund Budget Area. Information for 2010 will not be available until the Secretary of State's Annual Report on the Social Fund is published later in the year so I have provided information for 2009-10.

Number of crisis loan applications received and proportion of those such applications which received an initial award in 2009-10 in Great Britain by Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area

Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area by region	*Number of applications received*	*Percentage of applications granted an initial award*
East of England		
Essex	80,800	77.25
Norwich BDC	201,500	74.3
East Midlands		
East Midlands North	76,000	74.0
South East Midlands	103,700	75.1
London		
Central and East London	88,000	67.8
London South	147,900	69.2
North and North East London	85,200	65.9
West London	77,900	74.4
North East		
Northumbria	84,700	64.5
South Tyne and Wear Valley	88,300	75.1
Tees Valley	59,900	67.3
North West		
Chorlton BDC	449,400	75.6
Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	227,100	76.7
Scotland		
Inverness BDC	175,400	78.2
Springburn BDC	332,300	75.9
South East		
South East BOBS	131,500	73.6
South East HIKYS	261,500	73.4
South West		
South West Central	152,200	74.9
Wales		
Llanelli BDC	71,600	77.4
South East Wales	133,500	74.9
West Midlands		
West Midlands SF	355,200	71.3
Yorkshire and Humberside		
Yorkshire and Humberside Bradford	79,300	73.7
Yorkshire and Humberside Sheffield	200,000	70.0

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/national statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/national statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund computer system.
2. The number of applications received has been rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. The percentage of applications granted has been taken to mean the percentage of applications where an initial award was made.

Source:

DWP Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Number of community care grant applications received and proportion of those such applications which received an initial award in 2009-10 in Great Britain by Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area

Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area by region	*Number of applications received*	*Percentage of applications granted an initial award*
East of England		
Essex	12,800	41.3
Norwich BDC	27,400	36.0
East Midlands		
East Midlands North	18,100	41.9
South East Midlands	22,400	45.8
London		
Central and East London	24,600	39.3
London South	33,900	39.2
North and North East London	18,400	38.1
West London	14,100	39.5
North East		
Northumbria	15,000	47.4
South Tyne and Wear Valley	14,500	38.8
Tees Valley	13,200	42.0
North West		
Chorlton BDC	57,500	38.3
Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	36,600	47.6
Scotland		
Inverness BDC	24,300	42.2
Springburn BDC	59,300	43.9
South East		
South East BOBS	13,200	41.1
South East HIKYS	31,900	43.7
South West		
South West Central	39,500	39.1
Wales		
Llanelli BDC	13,000	44.7
South East Wales	27,400	40.3
West Midlands		
West Midlands SF	61,900	37.1
Yorkshire and Humberside		
Yorkshire and Humberside Bradford	16,000	40.1
Yorkshire and Humberside Sheffield	44,900	43.3

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/national statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/national statistics and there are some issues with the data; for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund computer system.
2. The number of applications received has been rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. The percentage of applications granted has been taken to mean the percentage of applications where an initial award was made.

Source:

DWP Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the *(a)* number and *(b)* total value of applications for (i) budgeting loans and (ii) crisis loans that were (A) received and (B) awarded was in each branch of Jobcentre Plus in the last three years for which figures are available; [53305]

(2) what the *(a)* number and *(b)* total monetary value of applications for (i) Social Fund discretionary payments and (ii) community care grants (A) received and (B) awarded was in each branch of Jobcentre Plus in the last three years for which figures are available. [53304]

Steve Webb: We are unable to provide information at local Jobcentre Plus office level; data by social fund budget areas are available and have been placed in the Library.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the average *(a)* rise for those better off and *(b)* fall for those worse off in income for households with a disabled child and a household income of (i) £10,000 to £15,000, (ii) £15,000 to £20,000, (iii) £20,000 to £25,000, (iv) £25,000 to £30,000, (v) £30,000 to £35,000, (vi) £35,000 to £40,000, (vii) £40,000 to £45,000, (viii) £45,000 to £50,000 and (ix) above £50,000 attributable to the withdrawal of the disability element of child tax credit and its replacement by provision under universal credit in (A) 2013-14, (B) 2014-15 and (C) 2015-16; [53249]

(2) how many households with a disabled child and a household income of *(a)* £10,000 to £15,000, *(b)* £15,000 to £20,000, *(c)* £20,000 to £25,000, *(d)* £25,000 to £30,000, *(e)* £30,000 to £35,000, *(f)* £35,000 to £40,000, *(g)* £40,000 to £45,000, *(h)* £45,000 to £50,000 and *(i)* above £50,000 will experience a (i) rise and (ii) fall in income attributable to the abolition of the disability element of child tax credit and its replacement by provision under universal credit in (A) 2013-14, (B) 2014-15 and (C) 2015-16. [53250]

Chris Grayling: Departmental modelling estimates that, once fully implemented, approximately 200,000 households with a disabled child will experience a rise in benefit entitlement of, on average, £23 per week as a result of universal credit and the integrated reform of disability benefits. Approximately 100,000 households with a disabled child will experience a reduction in entitlement of, on average, £28 per week, but these households will receive full cash protection against this change to ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition. Estimates on a year-by-year basis during the transition period are not available and sample sizes are too small to yield estimates by income bands.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households with a disabled child will experience a *(a)* fall and *(b)* rise in income attributable to the withdrawal of the disability element of child tax credit and its replacement by provision under universal credit in (i) 2013-14, (ii) 2014-15 and (iii) 2015-16. [53251]

Chris Grayling: Departmental modelling estimates that, once fully implemented, approximately 200,000 households with a disabled child will experience a rise in benefit entitlement of, on average, £23 per week, as a result of universal credit and the integrated reform of disability benefits. Approximately 100,000 households with a disabled child will experience a reduction in entitlement of, on average, £28 per week, but these households will receive full cash protection against this change to ensure that there are no cash losers at the point of transition. Estimates on a year-by-year basis during the transition period are not available.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed reductions in housing benefit for social tenants underoccupying their homes on overcrowding as measured by the space standards set out in the Housing Act 1985 if children aged under 16 years are required to share unsuitable bedrooms. [53718]

Steve Webb: The Department does not expect any household to have to move to nor to be offered accommodation, as a result of this measure, that would result in the space standards set out in section 326 of the Housing Act 1985 being breached.

The movement of underoccupying households in the social rented sector to more appropriately-sized accommodation should improve the availability of larger properties. These vacated properties could then be used to help alleviate overcrowding in the social rented sector.

Housing Benefit: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single people aged between 25 and 34 are claiming the shared accommodation rate of housing benefit in the Newcastle upon Tyne local authority area. [52980]

Steve Webb: The Department published the 'Two Year Review of the Local Housing Allowance' in February 2011, which includes estimates of the current caseload proportions claiming the shared accommodation rate, in Figure 2.11. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

The Department plans to publish an equality impact assessment for the shared accommodation rate changes within the next month, to accompany the draft regulations. This will contain estimates of the numbers of single housing benefit claimants between the ages of 25 and 34 who will be affected by these changes and of the number of claimants over 25 who are claiming the shared accommodation rate.

Institutional Investors

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the fiduciary obligations of institutional investors. [52248]

Steve Webb: Although DWP Ministers have not held any discussions with ministerial colleagues on institutional investors' fiduciary obligations, the Government believe it important that these obligations are fully understood. Officials from my Department have met officials from other Government Departments to discuss these issues and are considering a range of options.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department provides to jobcentres on informing jobseekers *(a)* that there is a prescribed list of good reasons for failing to attend or be on time for jobseeker interviews and *(b)* that jobseekers are required to have regard to this list; and if he will make a statement. [52865]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about what guidance is provided to Jobcentres on informing jobseekers (a) that there is a prescribed list of good reasons for failing to attend or be on time for jobseeker interviews and (b) that jobseekers are required to have regard to this list. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

When advising customers of the requirement to attend jobseeker interviews, guidance to Jobcentre Plus staff is to issue a formal notification, which among other things:

confirms the date, time, place and purpose of the interview;

asks the customer to tell us as soon as possible if they cannot attend; and

informs the customer their benefit may be stopped if they do not have good reason for failing to attend as required.

The formal notification is usually issued in writing, but can be given verbally or by other means. Where the notification is issued in writing and this is handed to the customer, the appointment details and potential consequences of not attending as required are also explained verbally.

I hope this information is helpful.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what allowance jobcentres make for genuine oversights in respect of non-attendance at jobseeker interviews; whether good character and previous history are taken into account; and if he will make a statement; [52866]

(2) what entitlement to benefit claimants have who fail to attend an interview due to an oversight but contact the jobcentre to rectify this within five working days; and if he will make a statement. [52867]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your questions asking what allowance Jobcentres make for genuine oversights in respect of non-attendance at jobseeker interviews; whether good character and previous history are taken into account; and what entitlement to benefit claimants have who fail to attend an interview due to an oversight but contact the jobcentre to rectify this within five working days. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is responsible for ensuring customers remain eligible to receive Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Under section 8 of the Jobseekers Act (1995) and Regulation 27A of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (1996), customers who fail to attend an interview will be asked to explain in writing the reason for the failure. Where it is immediately clear that there was good cause for not attending their interview (for example the customer was at a job interview, or was attending a hospital appointment) then payment of Jobseekers Allowance continues unaffected. An oversight, in itself, would not normally be considered to be good cause.

More complex cases are referred to a specialist Decision Maker who considers whether or not the customer had good cause for failing to attend. Jobcentre Plus Decision Makers act on behalf of the Secretary of State to make decisions on entitlement to benefit, using Social Security Legislation and established case law. They consider all the individual circumstances of the case on their merits when determining whether or not there was good cause for failure to attend and whether a sanction is applicable.

Where the Decision Maker determines that the customer did not have good cause then a benefit reduction is imposed. If a person in a vulnerable group has been sanctioned access to a hardship payment is immediately available.

An individual's previous failure to attend history is taken into account when determining the length of the benefit reduction. The Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations provide that failure to attend an interview attracts a fixed period sanction of 1 week on the first occasion, rising to 2 weeks for the second, and each subsequent occasion during the same jobseeking period.

National Insurance

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to nationals of *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* non-EU states in each month since January 1997. [53514]

Chris Grayling: The figures are not available monthly or prior to 2002. The information available is detailed in the following table:

National insurance numbers issued to adult non-UK EU nationals and adult non-EU nationals entering the UK: Time Series—January 2002 to 2010-11[1]

Thousand

Financial year of registration date	*European Union*	*Non-EU*	*Total*
January to March 2002	21.78	47.92	69.71
2002-03	97.76	248.46	346.23
2003-04	114.26	259.23	373.50
2004-05	197.55	237.80	435.35
2005-06	374.52	288.53	663.06
2006-07	420.25	285.59	705.84
2007-08	439.91	293.19	733.09
2008-09	377.18	308.93	686.11
2009-10	274.13	298.62	572.74
2010-11 (not complete)	169.69	153.17	322.86

[1] September 2010.

Notes:

1. Time Series—Reporting periods are based on the financial year of registration (1 April to 31 March). Figures for the period 2010-11 are up to 30 September 2010 (latest figures available)
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and displayed in thousands. Some additional control has been applied.
3. Registration date is derived from the date at which the NINo is maintained on the National Insurance Recording and Pay As You Earn System.
4. World Area of Origin Based on a client's nationality. The mapping for 'world areas' are based on the present day.
5. The EU includes the A8 accession states which joined the EU in 2004 and the A2 accession states which joined the EU in 2007.
6. This information is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/

Source:

100% extract from National Insurance Recording and Pay As You Earn System.

Pensions

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proposals he has on the transfer of pre-1997 state earnings related pension schemes from a deceased pensioner to the surviving spouse. [49933]

Steve Webb: Following publication of 'A state pension for the 21st century' which launches a consultation on the future of the state pensions system, the Government are consulting on options for simplifying the state pension. Any reforms resulting from these proposals would apply to future pensioners only. The Government will be considering how supporting rules, such as inheritance rights to additional pension under the current scheme could be simplified in a way that ensures they are fairly recognised during the transition to a different system.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the understanding by pension fund trustees of the long-term effects of environmental, social and governance issues on returns to their beneficiaries; [52249]

(2) whether he has considered the merits of bringing forward legislation to clarify the extent to which pension fund trustees may take ethical considerations into account in their investment decision-making; [52250]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects on pension savers of changes in the rate of portfolio turnover. [52251]

Steve Webb: The Government take an active interest in fiduciary duty and ethical issues. My Department hosts a Trustee Panel which I regularly attend and which includes a representative from FairPensions which recently published a report on fiduciary obligation. Their representative attends in their capacity as a scheme trustee and is able to use the forum to highlight environmental, social and governance issues.

In addition, following the call for evidence, 'A Long-Term Focus for Corporate Britain' the Government are considering a wide range of measures and will publish the next steps in the summer.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of using the US H.R. 798 Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act 2011 as the basis for *(a)* pension indexing and *(b)* the calculation of (i) pension credit and (ii) other benefits; and if he will make a statement. [53786]

Steve Webb: We are aware of this proposal currently being considered by the United States Congress. However, we take the view that using a single index for benefit and pension uprating is the fairest approach, and gives people clarity and consistency.

Social Fund

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence received by his Department from local authorities, local government associations and professional associations on the proposed devolution of the Social Fund to local councils. [54147]

Steve Webb: The Social Fund is not being devolved to local councils. The Welfare Reform Bill includes proposals to abolish the discretionary Social Fund. It will be replaced with a combination of locally designed and targeted assistance for the most vulnerable people in the community and a modernised and simplified national system of payments on account accessed through the benefit system.

We recently held a call for evidence on how the local assistance might be designed and delivered in England. We will publish a summary and response document shortly. The contributions received were from a number of local authorities, the Local Government Association, other organisations and individuals. The contributions will be made available as part of this process.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the change was in the proportion of *(a)* applications and *(b)* awards of (i) community care grants and (ii) crisis loans in each Jobcentre Plus area between (A) 2003 and 2007 and (B) 2007 and 2010. [54149]

Steve Webb: It is not possible to report back to 2003 on Jobcentre Plus region, budget area or region as subsequent boundary changes mean the data would not be comparable. Information for 2010 is not available until the Secretary of State's annual report on the Social Fund is published later this year. For this reason the figures for all of Great Britain have been provided for the information available:

Table 1: Social Fund applications received by year for Great Britain

	2003-04	*2007-08*
Community Care Grant	589,300	543,400
Crisis Loans	1,396,900	2,107,200

Table 2: Social Fund initial awards received by year for Great Britain

	2003-04	*2007-08*
Community Care Grant	256,100	246,700
Crisis Loans	1,059,100	1,431,100

Table 3: Proportion of applications to awards each year in Grear-Britain

	2003-04	*2007-08*
Community Care Grant	2.3	2.2
Crisis Loans	1.3	1.5

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
2. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application, and for initial awards made, not the number of people who received an initial award. (Some people made more than one application or received more than one initial award.)
3. If an applicant receives an initial award and this award is increased on first review in the same month as the initial award was made, then the Policy, Budget and Management Information System (PBMIS) does not count the initial award and the review award separately, but counts one award on the one application. However, if a first review award is made in a later month than the initial award, then PBMIS counts two awards on the one application. Similarly, if an initial or first review award is increased by the Independent Review Service, then all awards made in the same month on one application count as one award. However, if an initial award or any review award(s) on one application are made in different months, then PBMIS will count one award for each month in which an initial or review award was made. Because of this counting method, only the numbers of initial awards have been given.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on advertising in respect of benefit fraud in each year since 2007. [53365]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Expenditure on advertising in respect of benefit fraud

	£ million
2007-08	6.4
2008-09	5.8
2009-10	4.8
2010-11	0.02

Note:
Includes media costs, PR, production and research costs. It excludes VAT.

The 2010-11 spend reflects the freeze on all new Government advertising and marketing spend which came into effect on 24 May 2010 as part of the Government's plans to reduce expenditure to achieve £6.2 billion of net savings.

Social Security Benefits: York Outer

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in York Outer constituency received one or more out-of-work benefit payment in the last three years. [53626]

Chris Grayling: The constituency of York Outer was only formed for the May 2010 Westminster parliamentary elections. The only data available are for May and August 2010, with those for August being the latest available.

	Number of claimants on out-of-work benefits
May	3,180
August	3,160

Out-work-of benefits are:

JSA—claimants of jobseekers allowance

ESA and incapacity benefits—claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance/employment and support allowance

IS/PC—claimants of income support (and males age 60-64 claiming pension credit) that are not also claiming IB/SDA.

Data are published at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

State Retirement Pensions: Age

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration his Department gave to the potential effects on women aged 56 in 2011 of implementation of proposals to increase the state pension age; and what steps he is taking to assist those who are in this age group. [53727]

Steve Webb: The state pension age for around three-quarters of the women reaching 56 in 2011 will increase by 12 months, with an increase of up to a year and three months for the remaining quarter.

An assessment of the effect of the proposed changes on women born in 1955 is included in the impact assessment which accompanied the Government's White Paper 'A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66'.

We estimate that around 75% of women born in 1955 are currently still in employment. We are taking steps to ensure those who want to continue to work can do so and are able to save for retirement. For those not able to continue working, we will provide support through working age benefits.

As social security is a devolved matter, decisions in relation to future pension and welfare reform in Northern Ireland are matters for the Executive and the Assembly. Accordingly, some of the data referred to above relate only to Great Britain.

Tattoos: Plastic Surgery

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the provision of funding from the public purse for the removal of tattoos from benefit claimants. [53479]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about what representations he has received on the provision of funding from the public purse for the removal of tattoos from benefit claimants. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Specific details about this type of use of funding are not collated at a national level. Our Management Information would capture such a payment under the broad category of "other payments to remove barriers" but would not show the low level detail of tattoo removal.

However, I am aware of a case in 2002, where a customer was allocated financial support to have tattoos removed. This was made possible as District Managers have the discretion to make funds available to provide additional support to help customers overcome things standing directly in the way of securing employment. This can be used where there are no alternative sources of funding. There is no automatic entitlement, but where an Adviser deems the removal of tattoos as necessary to facilitate the take-up of a specific job offer and the cost represents good value for taxpayer's money, an award could be made. I envisage this only being in exceptional circumstances.

Taxation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish a tax benefit model for 2011-12, including new assumptions on rent levels and council tax bills for each family type. [52698]

Steve Webb: On 17 November 2010, the April 2010 tax benefit model was published. Alongside this, a consultation paper was published which asked for views on stopping publication and instead publishing a one-off interactive version of the model which can be updated by users themselves.

The consultation response document will be published in the summer.

Telephone Calls

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average speed of response to calls and *(b)* proportion of failed calls was in respect of each helpline operated by or on behalf of his Department and its predecessor in each year since 1997. [53449]

Chris Grayling: It is not possible to provide the data for all of the Department's lines back to 1997. The Department's previous telephony platform was not able to capture the information that the hon. Gentleman has requested. The Department has since moved to Internet Protocol Contact Centres (IPCC), which means that the data are now recorded. The different agencies within the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) rolled out to IPCC at different times, which is why some hold information for a longer period of time than others.

The Department operates several service lines and help lines and these are spread across the agencies. The information is placed in the Library and is displayed by agency.

Unemployment: Young People

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of underlying trends in youth unemployment; and if he will make a statement. [54074]

Chris Grayling: The number of ILO unemployed 16 to 24-year-olds has risen by 39,000 over the last year, to 963,000. This largely reflects a rise in ILO unemployed young people in full-time education who are looking for work to fit around their studies or because their course is about to finish. The number not in full-time education and unemployed is 666,000, an increase of 2,000 on the year.

Tackling the legacy of high unemployment left by the previous Government is a key priority for the coalition Government. Young people will benefit from the radical reform of the welfare system which will create a more flexible, personalised package of support to find work, including the Work programme. In addition, the 2011 Budget invested £200 million in support specifically targeted at young people which will include work experience; skills training; guaranteed interviews and progression into apprenticeships.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reasons for the change of the level of youth unemployment in the three months to February 2011; and if he will make a statement. [54075]

Chris Grayling: The number of ILO unemployed 16 to 24-year-olds in December to February 2011 rose by 12,000 compared to the previous quarter. This was made up of a 27,000 rise in the number of ILO unemployed full-time students, to 297,000, and a 15,000 fall in the number unemployed and not in full-time education to 666,000.

Tackling the legacy of high unemployment left by the previous Government is a key priority for the coalition Government. Young people will benefit from the radical reform of the welfare system which will create a more flexible, personalised package of support to find work, including the Work programme. In addition, the 2011 Budget invested £200 million in support specifically targeted at young people which will include work experience; skills training; guaranteed interviews and progression into apprenticeships.

Universal Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 750W, on universal credit, if he will estimate the cost to his Department of the transitional payments to families with annual incomes between *(a)* £16,000 and £20,000 and *(b)* £20,000 and £24,000, which will have a lower entitlement in each of the four years following the introduction of universal credit; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of such transitional payments if they are uprated by the consumer prices index. [53156]

Chris Grayling: The Government have made a commitment that there will be no cash losers purely as a result of the move to universal credit. At the point of change a comparison will be made between current amount received in tax credits and/or benefits and the household entitlement under universal credit. If the universal credit entitlement is less, and no other circumstances have changed, a cash amount will be paid in order to make up the difference.

Details of this protection have yet to be fully worked out but we would expect future increases in universal credit entitlement to reduce the need for transitional protection. Estimates on a year-by-year basis during the transition period are not available.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what tenders he has issued for IT support for implementation of universal credit; what the date was of each such tender; what the deadline was for receipt of bids; and how many bids his Department received for each tender. [53345]

Chris Grayling: DWP has framework agreements in place with service providers for the provision of IT. Individual programmes are not tendered as to do so would cost an inordinate amount and add considerable time to the implementation of major change programmes. The existing frameworks for the provision of IT services have undergone a re-bid over the last 18 months through *Official Journal* of the European Union process and the outcome of that competition will be known imminently.

Universal Credit: Fylde

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of basing the administrative offices for the universal credit scheme in the Fylde Coast area. [52937]

Chris Grayling: We are currently examining the options for the delivery of universal credit and are looking carefully at how to deliver excellent customer service on a national level while delivering best value for money. This will take into account whether, how and where any central administration offices are developed.

Welfare State: Reform

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what appeal mechanisms he proposes in respect of the sanctions arrangements proposed in the Welfare Reform Bill. [46408]

Chris Grayling: After a sanction has been imposed, claimants will continue to have the ability to appeal to an independent First-tier Tribunal. A First-tier Tribunal may consist of between one and three members depending on the issues raised by the appeal. It is likely that an appeal against a sanction decision would be heard by a Tribunal Judge sitting alone who will review the evidence, make findings of fact and apply the law to those facts when deciding the appeal.

JUSTICE

Driving Offences

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers were fined for an offence of not having valid motor insurance in each of the last 10 years. [53695]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons fined at all courts for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, in England and Wales, from 2000 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication on 26 May 2011.

Number of persons fined at all courts for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, England and Wales, 2000 to 2009[1,2]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[3]	2009
Number of persons fined	154,132	150,430	161,499	188,017	200,588	184,365	179,825	161,424	137,554	125,556

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the outcome was of the Izmir Conference on the future of the European Court of Human Rights; if he will place in the Library a copy of each contribution he made at the conference on the future of the Court; what was agreed at the conference; and when he next expects to discuss the future of the Court with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* his Council of Europe counterparts; [53843]

(2) what representations he made at the Izmir Conference on the future of the European Court of Human Rights in respect of restrictions on prisoner voting. [53844]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The conference adopted the Izmir Declaration, a copy of which I have placed in the Library. The Government welcome the declaration which, among other things:

> calls for a stricter approach by the European Court of Human Rights to its use of interim measures under rule 39 of the convention, with the Court intervening only exceptionally if cases have been considered by fair and effective national procedures;
>
> reinforces the importance of subsidiarity, the principle that the convention should be implemented primarily at national level;
>
> calls for further consideration of the Court's admissibility criteria; and
>
> calls also for continued reflection on the selection procedures for candidates for judges of the Court.

In my statement to the conference, a copy of which I have also placed in the Library, I stressed particularly the importance of subsidiarity, and warned that the Strasbourg Court should not be too ready to substitute its own judgment for that of national parliaments and courts. I also drew attention in this context to the strength of feeling in the United Kingdom on implementing the Court's judgment on prisoners' voting rights, as demonstrated by the recent debates in Parliament; I reiterated this point in bilateral meetings with key figures from the Council of Europe including the Secretary General, the President of the Court and the Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since returning, I have updated my ministerial colleagues on the outcome of the conference, and the Foreign Secretary and I shall continue to consult colleagues as we approach the start this November of the United Kingdom's chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. My ministerial colleagues and I shall also continue to discuss the reform of the Strasbourg Court with counterparts from other Council of Europe countries when opportunities arise, also particularly with a view to our forthcoming chairmanship.

Legal Advice and Assistance: Members

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will issue guidance to hon. Members on advising constituents seeking legal advice from their constituency Members; and if he will make a statement; [53603]

(2) if he will make arrangements for staff in his Department to assist hon. Members with casework arising from reductions in the legal aid budget; and if he will make a statement. [53605]

Mr Djanogly: I do not intend to issue any guidance, or make the arrangements suggested. Nor would I consider it appropriate to interfere with hon. Members' dealings with their constituency members.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effects on the number of people seeking assistance and advice from hon. Members of recent reductions in the legal aid budget; and if he will make a statement. [53607]

Mr Djanogly: Both Impact Assessments (IAs) and Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were published alongside the consultation paper, and these outline the anticipated impacts of the reforms in the consultation paper. We will publish revised IAs and EIAs alongside the Government's response to the consultation.

Legal Aid: Families

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding has been provided to *(a)* mothers and *(b)* fathers in legal aid for cases (i) in the family courts and (ii) involving the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service in each of the last five years. [53865]

Mr Djanogly: Information is not available in the form requested.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC), which administers legal aid, is able to provide the costs paid in relation to care certificates issued for the period 2005-06 to 2009-10, and this is provided in the following table.

Until October 2007 the LSC was unable to distinguish between costs incurred in care proceedings by parents from those with parental responsibility. The table reflects this change.

Spend on care certificates issued to parents and those with parental responsibility

		£ million
	Male	*Female*
2005-06	52	73
2006-07	52	75
2007-08	61	86
2008-09	82	109
2009-10	72	96

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on legal aid in cases relating to child access arrangements in each of the last five years. [53866]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission is able to provide figures in cases that relate exclusively to contact in private law family proceedings, and these are included in the following table. Cases involving contact issues with other family matters have not been included as it is not possible to apportion costs in those cases between contact or other issues.

Spend on child contact cases including VAT

Financial year	*Closed case spend (£)*
2005-06	32,555,833
2006-07	35,900,709
2007-08	40,270,875
2008-09	50,461,181
2009-10	51,930,794

Prisoners

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average population of each prison was in each of the last 10 years. [53882]

Mr Blunt: Comparisons of the prison population over time are typically made using the figures for 30 June in each year, as the June figures are a good representation of the year, and reasonably unaffected by seasonal effects (such as bank holidays). The tables which have been placed in the Library show the population in each prison establishment in England and Wales as at 30 June in each of the last 10 years. Information on the prison population by establishment is published quarterly in the Offender Management Statistics quarterly bulletin on the Ministry of Justice website.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Closures

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has taken any decisions on which prison establishments are to be closed in the future. [53705]

Mr Blunt: The prison population is under review following the announcements made earlier in the year about Lancaster Castle, Ashwell and Morton Hall prisons. No decisions have been taken about the need for further reductions in capacity.

Prisons: Expenditure

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the direct resource expenditure in each *(a)* public sector and *(b)* private sector prison was in each of the last 10 years. [53885]

Mr Blunt: The following table provides direct resource expenditure in each public and private sector prison for the years 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Direct resource expenditure is the expenditure accounted for locally at each prison. It does not include expenditure met at regional or national level.

Due to changes in accounting treatment over this period, the figures are not necessarily directly comparable. In particular, figures for public sector prisons for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are net of income from other Government Departments (mostly regarding health and education) whereas for 2007-08 they are gross.

Resource expenditure 2010-11

The accounts for 2010-11 are not yet finalised and therefore not available.

Resource expenditure 2001-07

Expenditure details for all public sector prisons for financial year 2001-02 to 2006-07 are in the public domain and are published in the Prison Service annual reports and accounts which are available in the House Library.

Establishment	2007-08	2008-09	£ 2009-10
Albany	13,526,136	n/a	n/a
Dovegate[1]	26,134,475	27,863,070	32,448,310
Garth	21,192,733	21,065,174	20,604,543
Gartree	16,979,987	17,507,598	18,005,960
Grendon and Springhill	15,209,260	15,398,101	15,059,951
Kingston	6,146,317	6,169,756	6,154,941
Lowdham Grange[1]	19,518,826	20,612,263	20,224,371
Parkhurst	15,815,812	n/a	n/a
Rye Hill[1]	17,719,425	18,656,797	18,464,782
Acklington	17,857,015	18,908,339	19,068,806
Ashwell	10,808,654	12,097,063	10,780,794
Blundeston	11,688,906	13,142,989	13,185,553
Buckley Hall	9,441,511	9,687,783	9,398,478
Bullwood Hall	7,060,113	6,973,684	7,054,113
Camp Hill	12,707,521	n/a	n/a
Canterbury	7,755,168	7,680,457	7,549,122
Channings Wood	16,349,599	15,775,812	15,813,666
Coldingley	11,183,746	13,818,439	14,018,059
Dartmoor	16,509,492	16,797,358	15,336,826
Edmunds Hill	9,467,352	9,719,171	9,532,440
Erlestoke	9,884,215	10,925,527	10,782,718
Everthorpe	13,458,337	13,079,909	13,043,793
Featherstone	14,237,272	14,409,44!	14,299,431
Guys Marsh	11,721,426	11,809,841	12,187,978
Haverigg	14,107,586	14,382,081	14,353,097
Highpoint	15,061,463	17,360,461	18,374,576
Kennet	10,908,924	12,769,566	11,745,116
Lancaster	7,586,424	7,625,232	7,357,275
Lindholme	21,967,008	21,081,944	21,100,924
Littlehey	12,784,751	12,796,232	16,144,636
Maidstone	12,523,602	11,811,858	12,092,965
Moorland	21,408,222	20,891,766	20,999,891
Mount	16,540,258	16,847,802	16,518,570
Onley	16,292,380	16,932,913	17,490,925
Ranby	20,842,382	22,003,871	21,782,913
Risley	21,136,564	22,664,946	21,636,889
Shepton Mallet	5,953,899	6,277,500	6,004,573
Stafford	14,357,452	15,152,719	14,786,961
Stocken	15,586,435	16,526,261	15,432,545
Usk\Prescoed	8,601,344	8,808,016	7,538,953
Verne	11,564,828	12,214,669	11,512,865
Wayland	13,891,210	17,602,049	17,758,908
Wealstun	17,420,612	16,654,128	16,978,252
Wellingborough	13,553,917	13,864,232	13,460,515
Whatton	18,019,779	18,694,212	18,217,997
The Wolds[1]	10,875,627	11,912,975	9,342,246
Wymott	22,717,339	24,114,563	24,106,269
Bure	n/a	n/a	6,443,268
Frankland	37,733,546	38,946,823	40,694,639
Full Sutton	30,216,641	29,654,714	29,368,371
Long Lartin	24,849,106	25,988,266	28,034,936
Wakefield	29,870,096	29,369,107	29,341,355
Whitemoor	31,283,541	31,369,667	31,579,262
Bronzefield[1]	24,220,661	26,017,488	24,401,273
Cookham Wood	7,860,927	7,915,362	8,935,386
Downview	10,257,035	10,440,260	10,590,306
Foston Hall	10,730,698	9,848,350	9,983,242
Send	7,974,883	9,168,516	8,721,037
Eastwood Park	11,798,232	10,566,776	11,181,553
Holloway	25,158,207	21,349,208	21,358,878
Low Newton	11,809,486	11,933,285	11,722,468
New Hall	15,735,038	16,411,720	15,818,500
Styal	15,520,894	15,150,734	15,296,944
Askham Grange	3,503,679	3,638,796	3,622,748
East Sutton Park	1,685,242	2,695,471	2,751,212
Aylesbury	14,269,019	13,428,584	13,584,962
Brinsford	16,541,974	16,818,021	16,256,727
Castington	14,790,794	14,884,903	14,754,834
Deerbolt	14,218,034	15,429,274	15,085,242
Feltham	32,356,513	33,072,667	33,138,053
Glen Parva	19,851,163	18,797,660	18,338,450
Hindley	18,450,002	18,819,544	18,216,153
Lancaster Farms	17,287,606	17,380,346	16,896,876
Northallerton	5,744,712	5,842,196	5,742,075
Portland	16,229,971	16,248,939	15,576,852
Reading	9,135,143	9,426,097	9,016,129
Rochester	11,251,885	14,827,179	17,550,300
Stoke Heath	17,644,395	17,942,798	17,078,907
Swinfen Hall	14,985,089	15,257,174	14,780,758
Ashfield[1]	22,364,453	23,065,309	23,141,092
Huntercombe	13,351,830	13,266,059	13,519,968
Warren Hill	9,363,252	9,800,684	9,896,726
Werrington	6,476,155	7,001,534	7,013,541
Wetherby	12,070,724	14,564,398	15,283,617
Altcourse[1]	42,035,519	46,755,009	46,438,070
Bedford	11,414,560	11,922,584	11,890,253
Belmarsh	42,910,643	42,162,623	39,859,998
Birmingham	31,558,293	30,484,199	29,659,870
Blakenhurst	20,147,043	n/a	n/a
Bristol	17,671,911	15,666,886	15,480,815
Brixton	23,533,925	20,343,607	20,587,169
Bullingdon	21,920,710	22,483,226	22,490,458
Cardiff	15,844,316	16,724,714	16,189,470
Chelmsford	20,201,242	17,503,321	17,654,734
Doncaster[1]	27,798,107	29,159,167	23,496,327
Dorchester	8,032,734	7,728,747	7,836,901
Durham	23,070,280	23.107,960	23,035,128
Exeter	13,978,989	12,926,888	13,135,508
Forest Bank[1]	26,364,105	28,521,810	31,562,625
Glouecester	9,289,063	9,113,564	9,222,434
High Down	22,888,897	25,742,808	24,121,005
Holme House	21,018,054	21,027,018	22,388,805
Hull	21,924,872	22,182,372	21,723,433
Leeds	25,576,011	24,176,491	24,321,857
Leicester	9,465,812	9,591,913	9,440,244
Lewes	14,380,997	17,790,440	16,313,366
Lincoln	15,443,069	15,645,532	15,496,171
Liverpool	27,928,917	26,853,605	26,051,023
Manchester	35,302,427	34,296,488	35,300,991
Norwich	16,568,823	15,828,794	16,563,142
Nottingham	15,020,488	15,664,059	17,900,765
Parc[1]	42,176,648	44,929,152	45,393,240
Pentonville	30,152,281	27,441,799	31,337,256
Preston	19,059,689	19,271,549	19,562,006
Shrewsbury	8,475,939	8,775,263	8,672,656
Swansea	9,814,723	9,845,978	9,212,630
Wandsworth	33,041,873	34,966,394	36,199,901
Winchester	16,059,152	14,955,540	15,657,238
Woodhill	31,002,853	31,951,935	32,723,769
Wormwood Scrubs	28,499,529	28,197,614	27,951,482

£

Establishment	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Ford	8,317,316	8,705,446	8,612,013
Hollesley Bay	7,135,000	7,044,053	6,934,500
Kirkham	13,211,374	13,885,548	13,515,299
Leyhill	10,854,610	10,422,190	10,400,365
North Sea Camp	6,165,873	6,429,962	5,908,156
Sudbury	8,750,370	9,030,115	9,111,329
Thorn Cross	9,363,231	8,983,400	8,766,128
Blantyre House	3,122,291	3,612,391	3,081,756
Dover	7,534,810	n/a	n/a
Drake Hall	8,146,405	8,357,364	8,209,835
Haslar	3,687,687	n/a	n/a
Kirklevington	4,760,283	5,582,764	5,810,431
Latchmere House	4,336,427	4,753,809	4,636,863
Morton Hall	8,564,168	8,732,022	8,625,373
Hewell Orange cluster	10,533,476	29,234,190	28,445,145
Isle of Sheppey cluster	46,745,807	44,942,798	50,732,398
Isle of Wight cluster	n/a	40,123,299	39,820,487
Peterborough[1]	30,355,588	32,410,756	31,292,633

n/a: Not applicable. [1] Privately run prisons.

Notes:

1. Financial data for Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside are reported under the Isle of Sheppey cluster. Similarly, data for Parkhurst, Camphill and Albany are reported under the Isle of Wight cluster.
2. For 2007-08 financial data for Hewell cluster is reported for Brockhill and Hewell Grange. For 2008-09 and 2009-10, Hewell cluster includes Brockhill, Hewell Grange and Blakenhurst.
3. Dover and Haslar are now Immigration Removal Centres operating under Detention Centre Rules 2001.
4. Lindholme is a split site, part Category C Training Prison and part Immigration Detention Centre.
5. Bure Prison: New Prison.

Prisons: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* principal officers, *(b)* senior officers, *(c)* prison officers and *(d)* operational support grades were employed in each prison on 31 March in each of the last 10 years; [53883]

(2) how many *(a)* senior operational managers, *(b)* operational managers and *(c)* administrators were employed in each prison on 31 March in each of the last 10 years. [53884]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of principal officers, senior officers, prison officers, operational support grades, senior operational managers, operational managers and administrators employed at prison establishments within the National Offender Management Service on 31 March in each year since 2001 have been placed in the House Library. There are other staff working in establishments who do not fall into any of these categories.

Information in respect of contracted establishments is provided by individual contractors. Grading structures may vary.

Probate Law

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to amend probate law to allow annuities on policies written in joint names to automatically continue making payments to the surviving recipient following the death of one of the named policyholders. [53139]

Mr Djanogly: When an annuity policy is taken out in joint names, the terms of the policy will govern whether the annuity will continue to be paid following the death of the one of the joint policyholders. We have no plans to change the law to restrict this flexibility.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he plans to take to enable customers to change current accounts; and if he will make a statement; [54072]

(2) what plans he has to promote competition in the banking sector; and if he will make a statement; [54073]

(3) what assessment he has made of the capacity of the market for personal current accounts to sustain new entrants; and if he will make a statement. [54076]

Mr Hoban: The Government established an Independent Commission on Banking to examine a range of issues, including competition in the retail banking and personal current account markets. The Government welcome the progress that the commission has made and look forward to receiving its final report in September 2011.

Banks

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the anticipated yield would be for the Exchequer if the bank levy allowance of non-chargeable equity and liabilities were set at £10 billion with a threshold triggering the application of the levy remaining at £20 billion. [54131]

Mr Hoban: The impact on bank levy yield of such a change would be dependent upon the behavioural response of the levy payers, so it is not possible to assess the total yield.

If the bank levy allowance of non-chargeable equity and liabilities was set at £10 billion with a threshold triggering the application of the levy remaining at £20 billion, a bank crossing the threshold would face an immediate tax charge of between £3.75 million and £7.5 million on the current rates of the bank levy. However, the exact charge on an individual institution would depend on the proportion of their taxable liabilities that were subject to the full and half rates for the levy.

As part of the consultation on the design of the levy, respondents were generally of the view that a threshold would create potent incentives for banks around the margin to structure their business in certain ways, or disincentives to grow, in order to avoid crossing the threshold. Indeed some argued that a threshold would probably not achieve any higher yield than an allowance because of these effects with consequent impact on both economic activity and other tax receipts, such as corporation tax.

The Government's decision to set an allowance of £20 billion instead of a £20 billion threshold did not alter the overall expected levy yield, as the levy rates were determined after such design details were finalised.

Banks: Iceland

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his Icelandic counterparts on banking since 8 May 2010. [54129]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations, overseas governments and ministries as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Banks: Loans

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total monetary value of loans written off by British banks in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011. [54038]

Mr Hoban: The information requested is not held by HM Treasury.

BCCI

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish Part 2 of Lord Bingham's findings into the collapse of BCCI having redacted those parts which would identify individuals who submitted evidence in confidence. [46704]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 15 March 2011]:* Consideration is currently being given to the case for publishing those parts of the Bingham report that were not published in 1992. Full account will be given to the public interest in disclosure and the period of time that has elapsed since the report was compiled as well as the other relevant principles including the effect on international relations, commercial interests and the disclosure of personal data. An announcement will be made to Parliament shortly.

Business: Government Assistance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he estimates the Exchequer has received as a result of the two per cent. premium charged to companies awarded supported lending via the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme in each year since its introduction. [53361]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Premium income of £68.9 million is forecast to be received over the lifetime of loans guaranteed between January 2009 and March 2011.

In 2010-11 the forecast for cash received was £17.7 million.

In 2009-10 the forecast for cash received was £8.1 million.

In 2008-09 the forecast for cash received was £0.2 million.

This forecast takes account of the 25% discount for all premiums collected in 2009.

Charitable Donations: Inheritance Tax

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of charitable donations as a result of the reduction in the level of inheritance tax on donations in each year from 2012-13 to 2015-16; [51537]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the reduction in the inheritance tax rate for charitable donations in each year to 2016. [51546]

Justine Greening: The likely change in the level of charitable donations as a result of the reduced rate of inheritance tax where 10% or more of the net estate is donated to charity is estimated to be:

	Change in the level of charitable donations (£ million)
2012-13	15
2013-14	65
2014-15	120
2015-16	175

The cost to the Exchequer of the reduced rate of inheritance tax where 10% or more of the net estate is donated to charity in each year to 2016 is published in Table 2.1 of the Budget 2011 document. This is available from the HMT website at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

Excise Duties: Fuel

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the extent to which the reduction in fuel duty announced in the 2011 Budget has been passed on to consumers. [54210]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 680W, to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Nick Smith).

Financial services: Business

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his proposals concerning new domestic regulation affecting small businesses apply to rules introduced by the Financial Services Authority. [50388]

Mr Hoban: The Government have announced a moratorium exempting micro-businesses and start-ups from new domestic regulation. The moratorium will apply for three years from April 2011. The intention of the moratorium is that it will apply to new initiatives in primary and secondary legislation made by Government. The Government will be publishing guidance on the application of the moratorium in due course.

The Financial Services Authority is an independent rule-making regulator with existing powers to make rules under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, and therefore the moratorium will not automatically apply to rules it makes under these powers. Therefore it will be for the FSA to decide whether to apply new regulation to micro-businesses.

The FSA is clear that it has an obligation to assess the impact of its rules on business, including small businesses, and seek to make its rules proportionate. The FSA has announced in its 2011-12 business plan that, recognising the difficult economic circumstances for many firms, it is not planning any new initiatives under its Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 powers beyond those which were already under way.

Fuel Poverty

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of changes to the carbon price floor on the number of households in fuel poverty in *(a)* 2013-14, *(b)* 2014-15 and *(c)* 2015-16. [51565]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The December 2010 consultation document "Carbon price floor: support and certainty for low-carbon investment", included an impact assessment which set out the increase to the Government's fuel poverty baseline resulting from a £30 per tonne of carbon dioxide price floor in 2020. This can be accessed online at:

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www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_carbon_price_support_condoc.pdf

The Government are committed to supporting vulnerable consumers and tackling fuel poverty. They are putting in place a range of policies in parallel to the carbon price floor to contribute towards these aims. These include introducing the Warm Home Discount to assist more of the most vulnerable households with their energy bills and introducing the Green Deal from 2012 so that households and businesses can improve their energy efficiency at no upfront cost, repaying through their savings on energy bills.

International Monetary Fund

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of the Government's shareholding in the International Monetary Fund; and what the value is of the shareholdings of the 30 largest shareholders. [54040]

Mr Hoban: The United Kingdom's quota share at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is currently 4.52%. This makes the UK the joint fourth highest shareholder at the fund. The monetary value of this share is 10.7385 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR), which is equivalent to around £10.5 billion under current exchange rates.

The total monetary value of all countries' quota shareholdings at the IMF is 237.3557 billion SDR. The values of countries' individual shareholdings are available on the IMF's website at:

http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/memdir/members.aspx#1

Public Expenditure

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the comparative effects of reductions in public expenditure on each devolved Administration and the total level of public expenditure in England during the comprehensive spending review period. [53962]

Danny Alexander: The Government's public expenditure plans for the devolved Administrations and for UK Government Departments were set out in the 2010 Spending Review (Cm 7942). The effects of reductions in public expenditure will depend on decisions by the devolved Administrations on how to allocate their block budgets.

Taxation: Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of revenue accruing to the Exchequer from the solar power sector in the next five years. [52928]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my hon. Friend the the Exechequer Secretary on 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 266W.

VAT: Imports

Anna Soubry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to provide information for the public to ensure that people sending gifts to the UK from non-EU countries are aware of value added tax payable by the recipient in the UK. [53918]

Justine Greening: Information on import procedures including details of when import charges become payable on imported gifts is available on the HMRC and Business Link websites.

The websites are regularly monitored and updated.

Welfare Tax Credits: Domicile

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people domiciled outside the UK are claiming tax credits. [52910]

Justine Greening: The information requested is not available, as domicile is not relevant (and therefore not recorded) when deciding entitlement to child and working tax credits. Instead, eligibility for tax credits depends on the claimants being present and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom. In addition, child tax credit claimants must also have a right to reside here.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 46704, on Lord Bingham's findings, tabled on 10 March 2011 for answer on 15 March 2011. [54036]

Mr Hoban: I have responded to the right hon. Gentleman today.

EDUCATION

CAFCASS

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in how many cases Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has recommended mediation between parents in each of the last five years. [53863]

Tim Loughton: Neither CAFCASS nor this Department holds this information.

Children: Deviance and Behaviour Disorders

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research on childhood delinquency his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated. [53692]

Mr Gibb: The Department is due to publish four research reports relating to childhood delinquency on 26 May 2011. The reports will be published on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk

The first report is 'Prevention and Reduction: A Review of Strategies for intervening Early to Prevent or Reduce Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' (by the Centre for Analysis of Youth Transitions). This report provides an overview of the key characteristics of 'what works' to prevent or reduce crime and antisocial behaviour among children from age eight. The report will help commissioners to identify more effective early interventions to support vulnerable young people.

The second report is 'Monitoring and Evaluation of Intensive Intervention Projects for Young People' (by the National Centre for Social Research). These projects were based on an intensive family support model and addressed the problematic behaviours of young people with particularly complex needs. This report presents the overall numbers of young people working with the projects, a baseline assessment of their needs and details of the progress made.

The third report also looks at the Intensive Intervention Projects and is a qualitative evaluation by Sheffield Hallam University. This report complements the National Centre report by providing longitudinal, in-depth case studies of 15 young people who worked with the projects, including the experiences of their parents and project workers. The report also provides a brief economic evaluation of the projects, which concludes that the intensive support model appears to represent good value for money.

The final report is 'Understanding Vulnerable Young People: Analysis from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England'. The report identifies young people experiencing six particular vulnerabilities at age 16 to 17, including: low attainment; teen parenthood; not being in education, employment or training; emotional health concerns; criminal activity; and substance misuse. The report explores how these issues overlap, including the related risk factors and outcomes at age 19 to 20. This research helps to estimate the potential numbers of vulnerable young people who are in most need of targeted, supportive interventions.

In 2010 the Independent Commission for Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour reported their findings in 'Time for a Fresh Start'. Background evidence for the Commission's work, including essays from a number of international experts, was published in the book 'A New Response to Youth Crime', edited by David J. Smith. These studies contribute to this wider evidence base.

Children: First Aid

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase the number of children who are trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. [53640]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The national framework for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education currently includes teaching primary school pupils about basic emergency procedures and where to get help; and secondary school pupils to develop the skills to cope with emergency situations that require basic first aid procedures, including, at ages 15-16, resuscitation techniques. These provide opportunities for children to learn how to act in an emergency to help others who are injured, ill, or otherwise in danger. External expert organisations such as the Red Cross and St John Ambulance support schools in teaching about first aid and dealing with emergency situations.

Children: Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of low emotional intelligence on levels of childhood delinquency. [53693]

Mr Gibb: The Department is due to publish a research report 'Prevention and Reduction: A Review of Strategies for intervening Early to Prevent or Reduce Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' (by the Centre for Analysis of Youth Transitions) on 26 May 2011. The report will be published on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk

The report provides an overview of the key characteristics of 'what works' to prevent or reduce crime and antisocial behaviour among children from age eight. It summarises the risk factors for involvement in crime and antisocial behaviour, which include factors relating to low emotional intelligence such low empathy and impulsivity. The report also identifies related protective factors, including resilience and self-efficacy (believing that one can perform tasks successfully).

The review concludes that counselling and skills training which aim to nurture a positive change in young people are likely to be effective. Among these, programmes employing behavioural or cognitive behavioural techniques were considered especially effective.

In 2010, the Independent Commission for Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour reported their findings in 'Time for a Fresh Start'. Background evidence for the Commission's work, including essays from a number of international experts, was published in the book 'A New Response to Youth Crime', edited by David J. Smith. This study contributes to this wider evidence base.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53817]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education owns the following properties:

Property name	*Address*	*Value (£)*
Castle View House	East Lane, Runcorn, WA7 2DB	7,500,000
Mowden Hall	Staindrop Road, Darlington, DL3 9BG	2,835,000
2 St Paul's Place	125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2FL	22,390,000
Nursery	Kenwood Park Road, Sheffield, S7 1NF	475,000

Castle View House Runcorn, Mowden Hall Darlington and the Nursery in Sheffield are all freehold properties. The Department owns the property at 2 St. Paul's Place but not the land. This is held on a long-term ground lease which runs until September 2259. The Nursery is operated by the company Bright Horizons for use by the staff of Government Departments based in Sheffield.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 767-8W, on departmental procurement, which officials took part in the appointment of members of the expert panel; and who was responsible for the negotiating process to determine the monetary value of the contract for the expert panel. [53102]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The process to appoint individuals to the National Curriculum Review Expert Panel was managed by officials working within the Department's National Curriculum Review Division. Those officials also led the negotiating process to determine the monetary value of the contracts through which we have engaged the members of the Expert Panel.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52813]

Tim Loughton: For work experience opportunities, the Department advises year 10-11 schoolchildren to apply via the local Education Business Partnership located near to one of the Department's buildings. Undergraduate students can approach the Department direct to request a work placement opportunity. For internships, the Department advises university students to apply to the Cabinet Office who manage the process and allocate interns to Government Departments via a bidding process.

Teams and managers responsible for a work experience student or an intern are supported by Human Resources (who manage the process) and via guidance held electronically on the Department's intranet.

The Department actively encourages its staff to volunteer and provides a range of advice and ideas through a dedicated volunteering page on the Department's intranet. Volunteering is used as a way to support staff development within the Department's performance management process. The Department is promoting a series of "Big Society" Roadshows during May-June that will encourage staff to ask questions and help them to learn more about the volunteering opportunities available to them.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53190]

Tim Loughton: Since 8 May 2010, the Department has taken 10 students on to its internship scheme. No students from the Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in that time.

All students undertaking an internship with the Department will have met the nationality criteria. Further information can be found on the civil service website:

http://faststream.civilservice.gov.uk/Nationality-and-Immigration/UK-Nationals--British-Citizens/

Education: Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the promotion and teaching of emotional intelligence in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [53691]

Mr Gibb: The Department has a limited amount of evidence on this issue from evaluations of the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme. This programme was promoted by the then Department for Children, Schools and Families to support the development of children's emotional intelligence. The coalition Government wants to place more trust in school staff to drive improvement and exercise their professional judgment over which approach they adopt and has therefore ceased promoting this particular programme.

A national evaluation of SEAL in secondary schools conducted by Manchester University, published by the Department in October 2010, found that SEAL failed to impact significantly upon pupils' social and emotional skills, general mental health difficulties, pro-social behaviour or behaviour problems. The evaluation can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RR049

An evaluation of primary SEAL published in 2008, focusing on small group work, found mixed evidence for the effectiveness of the small group work. The review can be accessed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-RB064

Further Education: Free School Meals

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* further education colleges are in receipt of free school meals. [52671]

Mr Gibb: Free school meals are not available to students attending sixth form colleges or further education colleges.

Local Authorities

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities have been subject to a partial or full intervention since 1997. [53586]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's records show that, since 1997, the Secretary of State for Education has issued directions, using powers in section 497A of the Education Act 1996, to the following local authorities: Bradford, Cornwall, Doncaster, Essex, Hackney, Haringey, Isles of Scilly, Islington, Leeds, Milton Keynes, Southwark, Stoke-on-Trent, Swindon, Walsall, Waltham Forest and Wokingham.

Since 2008, Ministers have issued Improvement Notices to the following additional authorities: Birmingham, Calderdale, Cheshire West and Chester, Gloucestershire, Kent, Leeds, Leicester City, Nottinghamshire Peterborough, Rotherham, Sandwell, Salford, Surrey, Torbay, Warrington, West Sussex and Worcestershire.

Other authorities have been subject to less formal performance improvement engagement with the Department, which has sometimes been described as intervention, and which has included enhanced monitoring, challenge and support.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) when he plans to respond to the letter of 9 March 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North (Mr Winnick), which was transferred from the Treasury, reference 2011/0026547; [53792]

(2) when the he plans to respond to the letter of 5 April 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North (Mr Winnick) regarding a constituent. [53793]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The hon. Member for Walsall North's letters of 9 March and 5 April were responded to on 27 April 2011. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to the letter from 9 March.

Music: Education

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will press local authorities to *(a)* implement the recommendations of the Henley Review of music education and *(b)* maintain support for music services at current levels. [53265]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities have a lead role in local music education delivering high quality opportunities to children and young people. They will be directly funded to undertake this role for 2011-12. They, along with others, will be well placed to lead local approaches to the more coherent and accountable local delivery of music education that Mr Henley called for in his review, such as by creating Music Education Hubs.

We shall be setting out our detailed plans later this year in a National Plan for Music Education. This will include the role we expect LAs to play in the provision of music education in their area.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which external *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals are contributing to his Department's review of personal, social, health and economic education. [52662]

Mr Gibb: Further details of the review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education will be announced shortly. We intend to publicise details of the organisations and individuals that have contributed to the review at the end of the process.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what mechanism his Department plans to ensure that the views of young people are taken into consideration during its review of personal, social, health and economic education. [52663]

Mr Gibb: Further details of the review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education will be announced shortly. At that stage, we intend to set out how the views of young people are to be taken into consideration during the review.

Schools: Libraries

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to implement the recommendations of the School Library Commission report "School Libraries: A Plan for Improvement". [52960]

Mr Gibb: I refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 379W, to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell).

The Commission's report was published last September.

While the provision of a school library is not compulsory, a good school library is a valuable resource for pupils and teachers. The Government therefore welcomed last year's report from the Commission, set up by the National Literacy Trust and Museums, Libraries and Archives, "School Libraries: A Plan for Improvement", on the future role for school libraries and schools' library services.

The Department agrees that good school libraries and school library services make an important contribution to children's literacy, and that schools are well placed to identify what provision best meets their educational needs.

Teach First: Bristol

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has had any discussions with Teach First about operations in Bristol. [53585]

Mr Gibb: The possibility of Teach First moving to Bristol, as part of expansion to the South West, has been discussed in the past at departmental level. Teach First is developing proposals for its expansion, as agreed by the Secretary of State for Education in a letter to its chief executive in March this year, which will be submitted to the Department in due course.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* sexual health charities prior to the decision to include funding for teenage pregnancy services within the early intervention grant. [52664]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education has regular discussions with local authority representative bodies and did so during the development of the early intervention grant (EIG).

There were no specific discussions with sexual health charities prior to the creation of the EIG. However, my officials and I have had regular discussions about teenage pregnancy policy through meetings with the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group and the Teenage Pregnancy Unit forum for non-statutory organisations.

The early intervention grant is an unringfenced and unhypothecated funding stream that gives local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The early intervention grant provides funding for teenage pregnancy and gives areas flexibility to coordinate their efforts in a way that meets local need.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of girls aged between 13 and 19 years and *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care gave birth in each region in each of the last 10 years. [52700]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number and percentage of looked after girls in each region aged between 13 and 19 who are mothers, for the years 2005 to 2010, is included in table 1 as follows. The earliest year for which this information is available is 2005.

Table 1: Number and percentage of girls in care aged between 13 and 19 who were mothers during the years ending 31 March 2005 to 2010[1,2,3,4]. Coverage: England

Number and percentages

Number of girls in care aged between 13 and 19 looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 to 2010

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All children	11,800	11,900	11,800	11,500	11,500	12,100
North East	550	520	580	580	610	630
North West	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,800	1,900	1,900
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,100
East Midlands	670	690	700	690	710	750
West Midlands	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,400
East of England	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,300
Inner London	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,100	1,100	1,200
Outer London	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200
South East	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
South West	1,000	950	930	930	950	1,070

Number and percentages

Number of girls in care aged between 13 and 19 who were mothers during the year ending 31 March 2005 to 2010

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All children	290	300	360	320	350	350
North East	10	10	10	20	20	30
North West	40	40	40	40	40	40
Yorkshire and the Humber	30	40	40	40	40	40
East Midlands	10	20	30	20	20	20
West Midlands	30	20	30	30	30	30
East of England	10	20	30	20	30	30
Inner London	70	60	70	60	70	70
Outer London	50	50	50	50	40	50
South East	20	30	30	30	50	40
South West	20	20	20	20	20	20

Number and percentage

Percentage of girls in care aged between 13 and 19 who were mothers during the year ending 31 March 2005 to 2010

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All children	3	3	3	3	3	3
North East	2	2	2	3	3	4
North West	2	2	2	2	2	2
Yorkshire and the Humber	2	3	3	3	4	3
East Midlands	2	2	4	3	3	3
West Midlands	2	2	2	2	2	2
East of England	1	2	2	2	2	2
Inner London	5	4	6	5	6	5

Number and percentage

Percentage of girls in care aged between 13 and 19 who were mothers during the year ending 31 March 2005 to 2010

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Outer London	4	3	4	4	3	4
South East	1	2	2	2	3	3
South West	2	2	2	2	2	2

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[2] Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Information on the percentage of girls in each region not in care who were mothers is not available. A national estimate for all girls aged 14 to 19 who were mothers has been provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), this is shown in table 2 as follows. Please note that a regional breakdown or comparable information for girls aged 13 to 19 is not available.

Table 2 : Estimated women and mothers aged 14 to 19, England and Wales, 2005-09

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Female population aged 14 to 19 inclusive (from ONS mid-year population estimates)	2,045,590	2,049,770	2,050,620	2,039,520	2,024,420
Estimated number of women aged 14 to 19 who have had at least one live birth	45,600	44,330	44,150	43,130	42,630
Percentage of women aged 14 to 19 who have had at least one live birth	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1

Notes:

1. Estimates of the number of women who have had at least one live birth are from an ONS birth order model that combines data from birth registrations with survey data on fertility histories to estimate birth order, and then combines these with population estimates to produce the female population by parity.
2. The percentage of women in a particular age group who have had at least one live birth (ie are mothers) is not the same as a birth rate for that age group, which would show the proportion of women who give birth in a specific calendar year.
3. Because the percentage of women with at least one birth increases with age, any comparison of the figures above with figures for females in care may be affected if the female population in care aged 14-19 has a different age structure form the overall female population aged 14-19.
4. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Fertility and Family Analysis Unit, Office for National Statistics

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the pilot studies on accident and emergency and urgent care centre nomenclature in *(a)* East Lancashire, *(b)* Manchester and *(c)* Salisbury were completed; and when the results of those studies were referred to him. [53577]

Mr Simon Burns: The work being carried out by NHS North West and NHS South West on nomenclature for urgent and emergency care services has not yet been completed.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of 111 calls led to admission to accident and emergency departments in County Durham in the latest period for which figures are available; [53707]

(2) what proportion of 111 calls have led to the despatch of an ambulance in the latest period for which figures are available; [53710]

(3) how many *(a)* 111 calls and *(b)* 999 calls to ambulance services have been made from County Durham in the last 12 months. [53713]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no direct information on this. However, as part of their evaluation of the four national health service 111 pilot sites, the university of Sheffield will shortly publish their interim report. A copy will be made available in the Library. This will contain data on the proportion of people who call NHS 111 who are recommended to attend an accident and emergency department, the proportion of people who call NHS 111 for whom an ambulance is dispatched and the total number of calls to NHS 111.

Antidepressants

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for *(a)* individual benzodiazepine drugs and *(b)* anti-depressants were dispensed by the NHS in 2010. [53672]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Number of benzodiazepine prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, as classified as hypnotics and anxiolytics in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.1.1 and 4.1.2

BNF chemical name	*Prescription items (Thousand)*
Alprazolam	[1]—
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	213.9
Diazepam	5,148.4
Flurazepam Hydrochloride	[1]—
Loprazolam Mesilate	88.6
Lorazepam	968.3
Lormetazepam	60.5
Nitrazepam	1,035.2
Oxazepam	164.8

Table 1: Number of benzodiazepine prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, as classified as hypnotics and anxiolytics in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.1.1 and 4.1.2

BNF chemical name	*Prescription items (Thousand)*
Temazepam	2,814.0
Total for BNF Section 4.1	10,493.7

[1] Less than 50 prescription items dispensed

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Table 2: Number of benzodiazepine prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, as classified as antiepileptic drugs in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.8.1

BNF chemical name	*Prescriptions items (Thousand)*
Clobazam	185.8
Clonazepam	629.1
Midazolam	39.1
Midazolam Hydrochloride[1]	0.3
Total for BNF Section 4.8	854.3

[1] Oromucosal Hydrochloride pre-filled syringes—a new classification from the second quarter of 2010.

Source:

PCA system

Table 3: Number of benzodiazepine prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, as classified as anaesthesia drugs in British National Formulary (BNF) section 15.1.4

BNF chemical name	*Prescription items (Thousand)*
Midazolam Hydrochloride	83.1
Total for BNF Section 15.1	83.1

Source:

PCA system

Table 4: Number of antidepressant prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, as classified as antidepressant drugs in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.3

BNF chemical name	*Number of items (Thousand)*
Antidepressant drugs	42,788.0
Total for BNF Section 4.3	42,788.0

Source:

PCA system

Childbirth: Overseas Students

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people who entered the UK on student visas gave birth in NHS hospitals in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [54248]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected by the Department.

Community Nurses: Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many district nurses have been employed at each grade in Worcestershire in each of the last five years. [53599]

Anne Milton: This information is not available in the format requested.

The number of district nurses in the Worcestershire primary care trust (PCT) area, as at 30 September, for each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

District nurse 1st level

	Headcount
2006	114
2007	108
2008	109
2009	93
2010	101

Notes:

1. Only 1st level (registered) district nurses have been reported as working in the Worcestershire PCT area from 2006-10; there have been no 2nd level (enrolled) district nurses reported in this area over this time. Nationally, 2nd level nurses are no longer trained and most 2nd level nurses have undertaken further training to become 1st level qualified.

2. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years' data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Emergency Calls

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training and qualifications are required of operators receiving *(a)* 111 calls and *(b)* 999 calls. [53708]

Mr Simon Burns: The organisation, operation and training requirements for NHS 111 advisers and ambulance control room staff are for the national health service to manage locally, and will depend on the clinical decision support systems they choose to use. However, for current NHS 111 pilots, the training of the NHS 111 advisers is of the same standard and rigour as that received by ambulance control room staff.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average duration of a *(a)* 111 call and *(b)* 999 call to an ambulance service was in the latest period for which figures are available. [53709]

Mr Simon Burns: Data for March 2011 show that the average length of an NHS 111 episode was nine minutes. An NHS 111 episode is the total time taken to resolve the caller's query. This will include any transfer to a nurse or other clinician for self-care advice for less urgent calls, or for an emergency call may include the call-handler staying on the line until the arrival of the ambulance to offer first aid advice and reassurance.

Data on the average length of a 999 call to an ambulance service are not held centrally.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* 111 calls and *(b)* 999 calls to ambulance services were categorised at urgency level (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C in the latest period for which figures are available. [53711]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not separately available for 111 calls, but is included in the overall figures for calls to the ambulance service.

Almost 8 million emergency calls were made to the ambulance service in 2009-10, of which 2.24 million were Category A, 3.1 million were Category B and 2.51 million were Category C. Annual statistical information for ambulance services will be published by the NHS Information Centre in June 2011.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* 111 calls and *(b)* 999 calls to ambulance services were found to have been wrongly categorised in the latest period for which figures are available. [53712]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

The Department expects call handling of all emergency calls received by NHS 111 and the ambulance service to be effective and ensure that calls are prioritised accurately and that the most appropriate response is awarded based on the information the call handlers receive.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the categorisation of *(a)* 111 calls and *(b)* 999 calls to ambulance services from women reporting (i) childbirth and (ii) miscarriages and other problems of late pregnancy. [53719]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued specific guidance on the categorisation of 111 and 999 calls to the ambulance service from women reporting childbirth, miscarriages and other problems of late pregnancy.

It is for the national health service 111 and ambulance services locally to determine which call handling system they use in order to provide safe categorisation of 111 and 999 calls received and ensure the most clinically appropriate response.

General Practitioners

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP consortia or GP practices are to be fundholders under his proposed NHS reforms. [53657]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner (GP) consortia and GP practices will not be fundholders. While fundholding and our proposals for GP-led commissioning consortia share certain principles, they differ greatly in detail. The intention is for GP consortia to be corporate statutory bodies established by statute to have the function of commissioning health services in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Bill. The consortium would be a legal body in its own right, separate from individual GP practices.

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether practices will be expected to undertake weekend callouts as part of his proposed NHS reforms. [53658]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government plan to put general practitioners (GPs) and other health professionals in charge of commissioning urgent care services including out-of-hours care. We believe that empowering GPs and other health professionals in this way will achieve better and more patient-focused services. This is not the same as requiring GP practices to provide those services themselves.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress his Department has made in establishing GP commissioning consortia in Hendon constituency and elsewhere in London. [53821]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has established a rolling programme of pathfinders to test the different elements involved in general practitioner (GP) led commissioning and to enable emerging commissioning consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

Hendon is covered by the Barnet GP Commissioning Consortium, which has recently been awarded pathfinder status. There are now 37 pathfinders in London covering 86% of the capital's population.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research studies he has reviewed which *(a)* indicate and *(b)* do not indicate a link between the introduction of GP commissioning consortia and an improvement in the ability of patients to choose healthcare providers. [53869]

Mr Simon Burns: As general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia have yet to be established, research studies do not exist on the link between commissioning consortia and patient choice. However, the "Commissioning for patients (GP commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board)" impact assessment outlines the evidence base for GP-led commissioning and improvements to access and choice.

Patients currently have a right to choose their health care provider when referred for a first out-patient appointment with a consultant-led team. We are committed to extending the opportunities for choice of provider and treatment.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 8 of the Health and Social Care Bill impact assessment, what the evidential basis is for his Department's conclusion that the establishment of GP consortia will improve access and choice; and what effects he expects such reforms to have on *(a)* health outcomes and *(b)* value for money. [53871]

Mr Simon Burns: The "Commissioning for patients (General Practitioner (GP) commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board)" impact assessment outlined the evidence base for GP-led commissioning. Improvements in value for money and outcomes are expected to be driven by better alignment of clinical and financial incentives, and higher levels of clinical engagement that will lead to more responsive care, coordination and care planning, delivering clinically appropriate care closer to home.

The impact assessment also outlines the evidence base for improving access and choice. GPs play a pivotal role in helping to coordinate national health service care and in partnership with other health care professionals are best placed to understand the health needs of local populations.

Patients currently have a right to choose their health care provider when referred for a first outpatient appointment with a consultant-led team. We are committed to extending the opportunities for choice of provider and treatment.

The Health and Social Care Bill places a duty on consortia to reduce inequalities in access to health care and health care outcomes, promote patient and carer involvement in decisions about them and enable patients to make choices about aspects of their health care.

The changes to commissioning are estimated to save £10.6 billion over 10 years.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to mitigate any risk of wider health inequalities arising from the implementation of GP commissioning; [53873]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of his proposals for GP commissioning on health inequalities. [53877]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill proposes a new legal duty on health inequalities for the national health service. Subject to parliamentary approval, the NHS Commissioning Board and commissioning consortia must have regard to reducing inequalities in access to, and outcomes of, health care.

The NHS Outcomes Framework sets out the outcomes and corresponding indicators that, from 2012-13, will be used to hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for the outcomes it delivers through commissioning health services. One of the underpinning principles when developing this framework has been the need to reduce inequalities in health outcomes. We have committed to work to improve data collections so that more indicators in the framework can be disaggregated by inequalities dimensions, socio-economic group and area deprivation, to support NHS action on reducing health inequalities.

The NHS Commissioning Board will draw on the national outcome goals in the Outcomes Framework to develop a Commissioning Outcomes Framework, to help hold commissioning consortia to account for effective commissioning and to promote improvements in quality.

We are also proposing that local authorities and their partner general practitioner commissioning consortia develop joint health and wellbeing strategies, drawing on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments. These assessments look in detail at local health inequalities and are a key tool for commissioners to use as a basis for understanding need across their area and between different groups within the local population.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he plans to take of the conclusions of the practice-based commissioning group and independent leads survey: wave 3 in determining any amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill he plans to bring forward. [53874]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment that accompanies the Health and Social Care Bill sets out the Government's assessment of the available evidence on practice-based commissioning and includes reflections on responses from the practice-based commissioning survey.

The Government are taking advantage of the natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to pause, listen, reflect and improve on the legislation, bringing together views from patients, the public, national health service staff and wider stakeholders. As part of the NHS Listening Exercise, the NHS Future Forum has been established to provide an independent ear, and will feed back what they hear in a report to the Government at the end of May.

The Government will reflect on the report from the forum, representations from other stakeholders and all available evidence in considering improvements to the Bill.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the optimum size of a GP commissioning consortium necessary to ensure *(a)* value for money and *(b)* health equality. [53875]

Mr Simon Burns: The history of national health service commissioning has shown that there is no "right" size for a commissioning organisation. Therefore, we will allow for smaller consortia to collaborate with other consortia where large scale matters, and will allow larger consortia to break down into smaller localities where this makes more sense. The Health and Social Care Bill will provide for consortia boundaries to flex rather than be fixed.

In relation to size, a key criterion for the NHS Commissioning Board in authorising consortia will be to satisfy itself that prospective consortia have made appropriate arrangements to ensure they can discharge their functions and that they have an appropriate area (for example, for the purposes of their duties in relation to accident and emergency services).

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the ability of primary care trusts to collect and analyse data on health outcomes; and if he will assess the potential effects of the introduction of GP commissioning on the collection and analysis of such data. [53876]

Mr Simon Burns: Health outcomes data are readily available from a wide variety of sources that primary care trusts can and do access and these will continue to be available under general practitioner (GP) commissioning. In addition, under the proposals for GP commissioning, there will be a duty to improve continuously the quality of services and outcomes for patients. GPs have indicated support for using information to help them do this.

The NHS Outcomes Framework published in December 2010 provides the framework for the development of clinical indicators. A programme of work is under way to analyse information requirements around outcome measures against the data that are currently collected.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether public health consultants working with GP commissioning consortia will be funded from *(a)* consortia budgets and *(b)* ring-fenced local authority public health budgets. [54141]

Mr Simon Burns: Once responsibilities and funding transfer to general practitioner commissioning consortia and local authorities from 2013, they will be responsible for deciding how their budgets are spent.

A consultation on the functions and services to be funded from the public health budget ("Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health") closed on 31 March and responses are now being considered. The consultation posed questions on whether any particular services should be mandatory for local authorities to provide or commission, and what essential conditions should be placed on the ring-fenced grant to ensure the successful transition of responsibility for public health to local authorities. The Department will formally respond to the consultation shortly, setting out the detail of the split of responsibilities.

The new public health responsibilities of local authorities will be funded through public health ring-fenced grants; this includes the costs of employing directors of public health and their teams.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he is taking steps to ensure that GP practices do not require their patients to use telephone numbers that are more expensive to call than geographic numbers, as stipulated in the Standard General Medical Services contract, section 29b. [54244]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department issued guidance and directions to the national health service on 21 December 2009 which stated that NHS bodies and general practitioner practices should not enter into new, renew, or extend, contracts for telephone services unless they can be satisfied that patients will not pay more than they would to make equivalent calls to a geographical number.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the directions and guidance.

Health Education

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he plans to put in place for the training of NHS staff to fulfil the commitment in his Department's Public Health White paper to encourage people to take responsibility for their health; and if he will make a statement. [53608]

Anne Milton: In the Public Health White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", it was announced that a detailed workforce strategy to support public health is to be developed by autumn 2011, working with representative organisations. Informed by the views of people on the frontline of public health delivery it will set out how a supply of highly trained and motivated staff, with the appropriate skills for understanding the range of public health interventions, providing public health advice and commissioning the services communities require, can be sustained and grown, as needed.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to his Department's Public Health White Paper, what steps he plans to take to encourage the public to take personal responsibility for their health; and if he will make a statement; [53610]

(2) with reference to his Department's document, Healthy Lives, Healthy People, paragraphs 2 and 9d, what steps he plans to take to achieve the commitment to build people's self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility right from infancy; and if he will make a statement. [53612]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health" in England, sets out the Government's vision for public health, including the creation of a new public health service—Public Health England—with a renewed focus on disease prevention, health protection and improvement.

The Government have reinforced their commitment to tackling the preventable causes of ill-health by announcing their intention to give local authorities ring-fenced public health budgets to improve the health of their local population. A new health premium will reward progress on specific public health outcomes.

The Government are taking a number of actions in order to provide the public with the information and support they need to make healthy choices and lead healthier lives. The Change4Life campaign still helps influence and shift behaviours around diet and physical activity, by giving families helpful advice on eating well and being more active. More than 1 million mothers say they have made changes as a result of the Change4Life campaign.

The National Child Measurement Programme enables and encourages families to make healthier lifestyle choices by routinely providing parents, whose children have been weighed and measured, with feedback on their child's height, weight and body mass index centile, alongside advice on healthy eating, physical activity and local weight management services.

The introduction of Out of Home Calorie Labelling, as one of the pledges of the Public Responsibility Deal, is also intended to empower people to make healthier choices more often, specifically when eating out.

The Department has also been working with the four United Kingdom chief medical officers to develop revised UK-wide physical activity guidelines. These guidelines are primarily aimed at policy makers and health professionals. However as they provide information on the types and amounts of physical activity for health benefits, when incorporated into existing campaigns and messages they will help individuals to take personal responsibility for their health and well-being.

All healthcare professionals have a responsibility to ensure that they make every contact with patients/the public count. This should include highlighting the impact of people's lifestyle choices and their health and well-being, as well as providing advice and support on how they can change these behaviours.

Health Insurance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the NHS Litigation Authority on the allocation of risk between the NHS and private medical insurers in respect of cerebral palsy claims. [54312]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has had no specific discussions with the NHS Litigation Authority on the allocation of risk in respect of cerebral palsy claims. Agreement between parties on the handling of claims is made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the available medical evidence and opinion as well as previous rulings of the court. Where agreement cannot be reached, it would ultimately be for the court to decide.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effects of changes to insurance premiums for private obstetrics, including the potential effect on NHS *(a)* service provision and *(b)* revenue. [54313]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no such assessment.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to improve the *(a)* administration and *(b)* recovery rate of outstanding liabilities from overseas visitors who use NHS services while in England; and if he will make a statement. [53614]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government announced on 18 March that they will amend the immigration rules to allow a person with an outstanding debt to the national health service of £1,000 or more to be refused a new visa or extension of stay until the debt is paid.

The Government also announced that they will review the rules and practices around charging overseas visitors to the United Kingdom for NHS treatment, including establishing more effective and efficient processes across the NHS to screen for eligibility and to make and recover charges.

Health: Equality

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the evidence base on the effects of commissioning models on health inequalities; and if he will make a statement. [53722]

Mr Simon Burns: The extent of health inequalities is well documented and measured; and the knowledge base is now sufficient to provide a basis for local, evidence-based and cost-effective interventions.

The potential for commissioning to impact on and narrow health inequalities is significant. Commissioning will need to address differences in health status across the local population and the drivers of inequalities, and seek to improve the poor health outcomes experienced by disadvantaged groups and areas, and reduce unacceptable variations in access to and outcomes of care.

The Health and Social Care Bill proposes a new legal duty on health inequalities for the national health service. Subject to parliamentary approval, the NHS Commissioning Board and general practitioner commissioning consortia must have regard to reducing inequalities in access to, and outcomes of, health care.

Heart Diseases: Children

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether hospital trusts were given the opportunity to correct errors of fact in Sir Ian Kennedy's review of children's cardiac surgery units. [53743]

Mr Simon Burns: The review of children's cardiac services (Safe and Sustainable review) is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. We have however been following its progress.

Hospital trusts were given the opportunity to correct errors of fact in Sir Ian Kennedy's assessment of children's cardiac surgery units against service standards. Trusts' comments were considered by the assessment panel.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the NHS has made of the merits of the use of copper-covered fixtures and fittings in high usage areas of hospitals in limiting the spread of MRSA and other superbugs. [53696]

Mr Simon Burns: Studies in a national health service hospital show that copper coated fittings have lower levels of bacterial contamination than standard equivalent items. However, evidence that antimicrobial surfaces decrease health care associated infections is required before the use of copper coating could be recommended.

Mental Illness: Offenders

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on the requirement on NHS trusts to liaise with the police and the criminal justice system only where the defendant has a diagnosis of severe mental illness; and if he will take steps to ensure comprehensive liaison between the police, criminal justice system and NHS staff in criminal cases in which the defendant has a history of mental health problems that are relevant to the investigation and which remain undiagnosed; [54307]

(2) what his policy is on liaison between the police and NHS staff in criminal cases in which the defendant has a history of undiagnosed mental health problems that are relevant to the investigation; and if he will take steps to ensure that all relevant mental health problems, including those that remain undiagnosed, are taken into account before a decision to seek prosecution. [54308]

Paul Burstow: We are committed to a roll-out of diversion services in all police custody suites and criminal courts by 2014. In relation to practice in police station custody suites, diversion services will look to identify and assess those offenders who present with mental health, learning disability and substance misuse issues and to ensure their health needs are met.

Appropriate information gained from those assessments will be shared with agencies along the criminal justice pathway, to inform decisions such as case management, charging and sentencing.

Muscular Dystrophy

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in establishing a guideline for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; and if he will make a statement. [53588]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is not currently developing a clinical guideline on Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

The National Quality Board is working with the wider clinical community to prepare a draft version of a library of quality standard topics that will go out for public consultation later in the year.

Neuromuscular Diseases: North West England

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the NHS North West Specialised Commissioning Group in reviewing neuromuscular services in the region; and if he will make a statement. [53606]

Paul Burstow: The North West Specialisted Commissioning Group completed the review of neuromuscular services at the end of March 2011. The findings of the review have been circulated to all primary care trust chief executives in the North West strategic health authority area with a request that it is shared with board members and general practitioner commissioning consortia leads.

NHS: Procurement

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on promoting diversity in the procurement process for health care services. [53870]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's guidance on procurement is set out in the "Procurement guide for commissioners of NHS-funded services". A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_118218

Commissioners of health care services, when using procurement as a means to deliver best quality for patients and value for the taxpayer, are expected to demonstrate consistency with the overarching principles of public procurement. These principles are:

Transparency;

Proportionality;

Non-discrimination; and

Equality of Treatment.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the provision of formal qualifications for health care commissioning skills. [53872]

Mr Simon Burns: Health care commissioning has generic and specialist elements and is multidisciplinary in nature. Individuals are recruited to ensure that commissioning can benefit from a number of professional and specialist skills, for example, finance, accountancy, procurement, programme and project management, statistical and informatics skills as well as from health care professionals from a range of disciplines, and public health communications specialists. The requirement for individuals to have formal qualifications will be reflected in job descriptions and reflected both in the recruitment processes for individuals and in terms of ongoing development for individuals.

The National Leadership Council is also working in collaboration with the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement to offer leaders of general practitioner pathfinders and their teams appropriate development tools during the transition to the new system.

NHS: Standards

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on health outcomes of the World Class Commissioning assurance framework. [53868]

Mr Simon Burns: The World Class Commissioning assurance framework assessed primary care trusts' (PCT's) commissioning capabilities across three elements; outcomes, competencies and governance.

The capability of PCTs was assessed in 2009 and 2010. It was recognised that it takes time to drive tangible change in outcomes. PCTs were not formally rated against their outcomes in 2009 or 2010.

The assurance framework has since been discontinued.

North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of operating the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust was in the last 12 months. [53616]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost of operating a primary care trust (PCT) can be interpreted in two ways:

(a) the net operating costs of a PCT (i.e. their total expenditure less any miscellaneous revenue).

(b) the running costs of the PCX (the administrative costs of running the PCT).

The net operating cost of North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust in 2009-10 was £1,179 million. 2009-10 is the latest period for which figures are available.

There is no separately identifiable figure for 'running costs' (interpretation (b) above) in the financial data the Department has historically collected. From 2010-11, PCTs and strategic health authorities will be required to report running costs to the Department. 2010-11 data will be available in late July.

Northwick Park Hospital: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical staff were employed at Northwick Park Hospital on 1 April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [54311]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available. The following table shows the number of national health service staff employed at the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust as at 31 January 2011.

National health service hospital and community health services: National health service staff in the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust as at 31 January 2011

	Headcount
All national health service staff	4,798
Medical and dental staff	754
All non-medical staff	4,044
Professionally qualified clinical staff total	2,383
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting	1,649
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST&T) staff	734
Support to clinical staff total	1,269
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,005
Support to ST&T staff	265
NHS infrastructure support total	396

National health service hospital and community health services: National health service staff in the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust as at 31 January 2011

	Headcount
Central functions	247
Hotel, property and estates staff	67
Managers and senior managers	82

Notes:
1. January 2011 is the latest available data.
2. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the census publication here:
www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf
3. Data Quality
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Sources:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care monthly work force statistics—Provisional, Experimental Statistics

Respiratory Diseases: Medical Treatments

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of NHS provision of ventilation machines for patients with respiratory difficulties. [53598]

Mr Simon Burns: The provision of ventilation machines for people with respiratory difficulties is for local determination. The Department recommended in the "Consultation on a Strategy for Services for Chronic Respiratory Disease (COPD) in England" published in February 2010 that all people with acute respiratory failure should be offered treatment with non-invasive ventilation with access to mechanical ventilation, if required.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the prevalence of the use of animals in the testing of household cleaning products and their ingredients; what recent discussions she has had with companies involved in the manufacture of such products to discuss the need for such testing; and if she will make a statement. [53932]

Lynne Featherstone: The number of animals used for the testing of substances used in household products in the United Kingdom is low. The Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, published annually, record that in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (the most recent year for which we have figures) the numbers used in this category of testing were, respectively, 234, 272, 111, 0, 1, 132 and 0. The coalition agreement includes a commitment to end the testing of household products on animals and we are working on a strategy to deliver this commitment. We have held discussions with manufacturers, contract research organisations and the European Union Institute for Health and Consumer Products in connection with this work.

Criminal Records

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department's review of the portability of Criminal Records Bureau checks will address the requirement for dentists to undergo a check for each practice in which they work; and if she will make a statement. [54139]

Lynne Featherstone: Following the report of Phase 1 of the independent review of the criminal records regime, measures have been included within the Protection of Freedoms Bill to increase the portability of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosures. This will enable employers to check whether any new information has come to light since a previous disclosure was issued. The review has not looked at specific occupations, but increased portability will be available to all those who apply for enhanced CRB disclosures, including dentists.

Domestic Violence

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what amendments she plans to propose to the draft Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. [54237]

Lynne Featherstone: The drafting process on this convention is now complete and the convention was passed for adoption by the Committee of Ministers on 7 April. No further amendments are therefore possible to the convention wording.

Domestic Violence: Police

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many specialist police officers dealing with domestic violence there were *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in May 2010. [54255]

Lynne Featherstone: This information is not held centrally by the Home Office.

Each of the 43 force areas have a specialist domestic violence lead responsible for informing and guiding officers handling domestic violence cases, as well as providing specialist support to victims and working in partnership with other organisations across their local area.

Prostitution: Advertising

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals she plans to bring forward to prevent the advertisement of sexual services in the media. [53907]

Lynne Featherstone: We do not believe it is appropriate to advertise sexual services in local newspapers and welcome the guidance published on this by the Newspaper Society in recent years. An outright ban on advertising sexual services would require legislation which we do not believe would be effectively enforceable. We will look at this issue more closely and consider what more can be done to prevent advertising of sexual services in the media.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 9 May 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the staff vacancy rate was for his Department in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [54202]

Mr Paterson: My Department has not carried any vacant posts during 2010-11 and has reduced its size from 173 to 164 during this period. No vacancy rate has been assumed for the 2011-12 budget.

PRIME MINISTER

Afghanistan: Armed Conflict

Mr Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to have discussions with the US administration on the ending of military operations in Afghanistan earlier than previously planned as a result of the death of Osama bin Laden. [54856]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 469, to my hon. Friend the Member for Croydon Central (Gavin Barwell).

BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he discussed the potential sale of BAE Systems Tactica armoured vehicles with government representatives during his recent visit to Egypt and the Gulf region; [51697]

(2) whether he requested documentation from BAE Systems on the export of Tactica armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia prior to his recent visit to the Gulf region; [51698]

(3) what discussions he had with representatives of BAE Systems on the export of Tactica armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia *(a)* prior to and *(b)* during his recent visit to the Gulf region. [51699]

The Prime Minister: I had no such discussions or documentation. This Government takes their arms export responsibilities extremely seriously and operates some of the most rigorous export controls in the world. In response to recent developments in the middle east, the Government have been reviewing extant licences and new applications for countries in the affected regions.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 923-24W, on animal welfare: circuses, which representatives of welfare groups and the circus industry have had discussions with Lord Henley; and which industry body has proposed a self-regulatory system for the use of wild animals in circuses. [54015]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* Lord Henley held separate meetings with representatives from animal welfare and circus industry organisations on 22 July 2010. The animal welfare organisations were represented by Animal Defenders International, Captive Animal Protection Society, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and Born Free. The circus industry organisations were represented by the Association of Circus Proprietors, Classical Circus Association, European Circus Association, Performing Animal Welfare Standards International, Circus Mondeo and Bobby Roberts' Circus.

At Lord Henley's meeting with circus industry organisations, it was agreed that they would provide ideas on how a regulatory system could work. A proposal was subsequently received by Performing Animal Welfare Standards International.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent media briefings her Department has given on the issue of wild animals in circuses; and if she will make a statement. [53659]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* While we have given no recent formal media briefings on the subject of wild animals in circuses, we have answered a number of questions from individual journalists on this issue.

I am pleased to say that the Government's policy review is close to completion and that a policy announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Beekeeping: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many registered beekeepers there are in Kent; and what the equivalent figure was in 2000. [53667]

Mr Paice: Although there is no formal requirement for beekeepers to register, the National Bee Unit manages a voluntary register in GB through an internet service known as BeeBase. There are currently 862 beekeepers from the Kent area voluntarily registered on BeeBase. Equivalent figures are not available for 2000.

Biofuels

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the exemption from a requirement to hold an Environment Agency permit for biodiesel producers who manufacture less than 5,000 litres per year. [54028]

Mr Paice: A new exemption from the need for an environmental permit for the physical treatment of waste edible oil and fat to produce biodiesel came into force on 6 April 2010.

Following further consultation, it is proposed to extend the scope of the new exemption to also allow for the small-scale chemical treatment of up to 250 litres in addition to the 5,000 litre limit for physical treatment. This will be introduced at the next suitable opportunity to amend the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

Dogs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information she holds on the number of dogs humanely destroyed by local authorities because they could not be returned to their owners in the latest period for which figures are available. [54198]

Mr Paice: This information is not held centrally but by each local authority.

Food: Inflation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she proposes to take with her G20 counterparts to *(a)* address global food price inflation and *(b)* encourage greater food security. [52896]

Mr Paice: The UK Government are committed to promoting the better functioning of agricultural markets, which will help to mitigate future price spikes. We are working with France during their G20 Presidency to improve the transparency and availability of global agricultural market data (particularly with regard to global stock levels) and tackle export restrictions.

Global food security is a long-term challenge. Domestic production in developed economies has a role to play. It is a priority in our departmental business plan to support and develop farming to build capacity for sustainable production both in the UK and globally, which will help our food supply be resilient to shocks and crises.

International trade also has an important role in providing food security. We are a trading nation in a global market and the UK is a significant exporter of wheat, lamb, dairy products and breakfast cereals. Our own food security depends on access to the world market; and our domestic food industry needs to be able to compete on the world stage.

Forestry Commission: Manpower

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees of the Forestry Commission were *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part time (i) in each of the last four years and (ii) as at the end of March 2011. [54812]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission is a non-ministerial department for England, Scotland and Wales. The following table shows the number of Forestry Commission employees in full and part-time positions.

As at 31 March:	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
2007	2,847	475	3,322
2008	2,796	502	3,298
2009	2,822	524	3,346
2010	2,901	578	3,479
2011	2,695	537	3,232

Tortoises: Shipping

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to end the practice of shipping to customers by mail services tortoises which have been purchased over the internet. [53158]

Mr Paice: The dispatch of the majority of live animals by post is prohibited by both animal welfare legislation and post operator guidelines.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal that is under the control of man or for an owner or keeper to fail to provide for an animal's welfare needs. Ultimately it would be for a court to decide, but it is realistic to assume that sending a tortoise through the post without taking appropriate care to secure the health and welfare of the animal, would be an offence under the 2006 Act. The maximum penalty under the 2006 Act for causing unnecessary suffering is a fine of £20,000, or six months imprisonment, or both.

Royal Mail and Parcelforce do not carry live animals. Many courier companies that do their own hand deliveries also operate a total ban on the transport of live animals. Any postal operator or courier that does transport live animals needs to comply with EU welfare during transport legislation (Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005). The regulation is implemented in England by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 (WATEO) and by parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It is an offence under this legislation to transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering to that animal. Animals must be transported in a receptacle or means of transport that has appropriate space, ventilation, temperature, security, liquid and oxygen for the species concerned. Primary responsibility for enforcement of welfare during transport legislation rests with local authorities. Transporters found to be in breach of Regulation 1/2005 or WATEO could be subject to enforcement action.

All tortoises are covered by the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) and as such commercial trade would generally be subject to a strict licensing system except where that trade is within the EU.

Local Government Regulation (formerly LACORS) produced an overview in 2008 of the rules relating to the dispatch of living creatures by post. This can be seen at:

http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?id=20510

Wheels to Work Scheme

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to Wheels to Work projects via the Rural Development Programme for England in each of the last four years. [54043]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* The following funding was allocated from the Rural Development Programme for England for Wheels to Work projects:

	Amount (£)
2007-08	0
2008-09	0
2009-10	99,788
2010-11	138,462

The following funding was allocated from the Rural Development Programme for England for a similar transport to work project:

	£
2010-11	31,050

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been allocated to Wheels to Work projects via the Rural Development Programme for England in 2011-12. [54044]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* £15,000 has been budgeted from the Rural Development Programme for England for a Wheels to Work project in 2011-12. A further £10,000 has been budgeted from the Rural Development Programme for England for a similar transport to work project in 2011-12.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England allocated to the London borough of Bexley in each of the last 10 years. [53941]

Mr Vaizey: The amount allocated by Arts Council England to the London borough of Bexley in the last 10 years, through the Grants for the Arts programme, is set out in the table:

	£000
2006-07	165,397
2008-09	90,406
2009-10	289,243

There have been no organisations in the London borough of Bexley within the last 10 years that have received regular funding from Arts Council England.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the pricing by BT of use of ducts and poles to deploy superfast broadband. [53076]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* Several communications providers have written to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Ministers making representations about the pricing of British Telecom's ducts and poles. Openreach has made reference offers for the pricing of ducts and poles in January 2011 and these offers are currently the subject of consultation with the industry. Subject to the outcome of that consultation, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) has powers to make a determination of what the prices should be.

Broadband: Enterprise Zones

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 34W, on broadband: enterprise zones, from which budgets public funding for broadband in local enterprise partnerships will be allocated where it is considered necessary. [54094]

Mr Vaizey: Should a decision be made that public funding is necessary to support broadband provision in a particular enterprise zone, the appropriate budget or budgets for such public funding will be decided also. At present no such determination of need has been made.

Broadcasting: Welsh Language

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the minutes of discussions between his Department, the BBC and S4C on the future of Welsh language broadcasting. [53963]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will publish a summary of the minutes after the negotiations with the BBC and S4C have been concluded.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53815]

John Penrose: As set out in the Department's Resource Accounts (Note 15.4 Page 66/67) the Department does not own any buildings; they are all leased. The properties held in the name of the Secretary of State are owned by the Crown.

Departmental Visits

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* state and *(b)* independent fee-paying schools each Minister of his Department has visited since their appointment. [53279]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Since being appointed, I have visited two state schools, the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson), has visited four state schools, and the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, the hon. Member for Wantage (Mr Vaizey), has visited one state school. No independent fee-paying schools have been visited.

Morecambe Winter Gardens

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what grants his Department has allocated for the regeneration of Morecambe Winter Gardens in the last three years. [53683]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has not allocated any grants through its arm's length bodies to the regeneration of Morecambe Winter Gardens in the last three years.

National Lottery: Greater London

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of arts funding raised through the lottery was allocated to projects in *(a)* the regions and *(b)* London in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [53926]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England has supplied in the table the lottery funding allocated to arts projects through the Grants for the Arts, Capital, Transform, Thrive and Unlimited schemes in *(a)* the regions and *(b)* London in 2010-11:

Area	*Awards (£)*
Regions	47,239,312
London	31,239,312

A further £10.2 million was invested in national programmes in 2010-11.

Olympic Games 2012: Pembrokeshire

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to encourage the engagement of young people from Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire in the London 2012 Olympics. [52787]

Hugh Robertson: It is important that children and young people from across the UK are actively encouraged to participate in the wide range of opportunities created by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Over 17,000 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games' (LOCOG) education programme Get Set.

It is hoped that the majority of primary and secondary schools will be signed up to Get Set over the next few months, and use its resources to ensure London 2012 is championed in and around our schools. Currently 27 schools in Carmarthen are registered with Get Set and 22 schools in Pembrokeshire have also registered. 'Young Ambassadors' is a London 2012 programme managed by Youth Sport Trust with the London 2012 Inspire mark for education. It involves young people being recruited to be ambassadors, working in their schools and communities to champion sport and the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. There are ambassadors for Carmarthenshire who act as role models and use the power of London 2012 to inspire other young people to choose sport.

Pupils from Ysgol Tre-gib, Carmarthenshire, (supported by Cold YA Emyr Jones) entered a competition on Get Set to design their ideal break time activity. They were selected to represent Wales at the UK final in June 2011. Schools in Glanymor and Amman Valley, Carmarthenshire, are working on the 'International Inspiration' project.

A Sport Pembrokeshire and Pembrokeshire Leisure working group have created an agreed 'Olympic Legacy' action plan which outlines several projects which will aim to inspire young people to participate in sport. One of the projects which received £1.67 million of part funding from the Legacy Trust is The Power of the Flame, designed to use the 2012 games as a catalyst to inspire young people to achieve their very best in their chosen field. It embraces Wales's unique heritage sites, the history of sportsmen and women, disabled young artists, and Eisteddfodic traditions.

Two Cauldrons and Furnaces events taking place in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire during 2012 will involve 1,870 young people; and the Laugharne project which will involve 870 primary and secondary school children.

In addition, I launched the 'Places People Play' programme, which will bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring all to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy. Further detail can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7565.aspx

Radio Frequencies

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any simulation of white space device deployment is being undertaken by Ofcom; and if he will make a statement. [54018]

Mr Vaizey: No specific simulation of white space device deployment has been undertaken. However, Ofcom undertakes technical studies to understand the impacts of interference on services in a number of frequency bands, including those in which white space devices are expected to operate. Ofcom remains open to conducting further studies, should they be required.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) with which companies Ofcom had discussions when formulating parameters to prevent spectrum interference to licensed users from white space devices; and if he will make a statement; [54092]

(2) whether Ofcom has worked with industry to formulate the working parameters for white space devices. [54093]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom has undertaken a number of public consultations on white space devices and related subjects, in which industry partners have participated. The consultations can be found using the links:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/geolocation/

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/cognitive/

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/cogaccess/

SCOTLAND

Construction

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he last met representatives of businesses in the construction industry in Scotland to discuss trends in that sector. [54645]

Michael Moore: I attended a CBI Scotland dinner on 17 February where I met with key stakeholders in the construction industry and other sectors.

In March 2011, the Government issued a Plan for Growth to put the United Kingdom on a path to sustainable long-term economic growth and which set out a number of specific measures to benefit the construction sector. I plan to have further meetings with the construction industry to discuss this and other issues affecting the sector.

Economy

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the contraction of the Scottish economy during the fourth quarter of 2010. [54644]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with Treasury Ministers, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on a wide range of economy-related topics. The contraction of the Scottish economy is obviously disappointing, but the Office for National Statistics has made it very clear that the terrible weather in December was the key factor. The Government have always said the recovery will be choppy, but we are committed to be the most pro-growth Government and our Plan for Growth will help us to achieve more sustainable and balanced growth for all parts of the country.

Employment Schemes

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the number of contracts in relation to the Work programme awarded in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [54594]

Michael Moore: In total, 40 contracts were awarded to deliver the Work programme in contract package areas (CPAs) across Great Britain. Two contracts were awarded to the CPA which covers Scotland. The preferred bidders for both these contracts are in ongoing discussions with potential partners to be included in their supply chains, including public sector, voluntary sector and private sector providers.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made on the likely effect on the Wise Group of its loss of the contract for the delivery of services under the Work programme in Scotland. [54595]

Michael Moore: The selection of Work programme prime providers was conducted in a fair and open competition, which attracted 177 bids from 30 organisations. Seven bids were received for the two contracts covering Scotland. Although there is disappointment that the Wise Group did not win a contract, the Government recognise the contribution the Wise Group can make and has highlighted this to the preferred bidders for Scotland. As a framework provider, we expect the Wise Group to be in a good position to take advantage of any further commercial opportunities that arise.

Homelessness

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what dates he discussed with Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions concerns raised by charities based in Scotland of the effect on the level of homelessness of changes to housing benefit. [54696]

Michael Moore: I am in regular contact with Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions on a range of issues concerning welfare and benefits reform, including changes to housing benefit.

Offshore Industry

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the oil and gas industry in Scotland of the announcement in the 2011 Budget of an increase in the supplementary charge on oil and gas. [54668]

Michael Moore: The oil and gas sector has benefited from significantly higher prices than anticipated by the industry. Pre-tax profits in 2011 are forecast to be £24 billion, and up 50% in two years, so it is fair that companies make an extra contribution at this time. The tax will fall in a staged and affordable way if the oil price falls below a pre-set trigger price on a sustained basis. We will continue to discuss measures with the industry, including field allowances to encourage ongoing investment in more marginal fields. Overall, we do not expect this change to have a significant impact on investment or production in the coming years. Average post-tax profits per barrel will be higher in the next five years than the last five.

TRANSPORT

Cycling

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the Cycle Town scheme *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Colchester constituency. [53777]

Norman Baker: Cycling England's Cycle City and Towns programme came to an end on 31 March 2011.

All English transport authorities are able to apply for funds for sustainable transport schemes which create economic growth and cut carbon, including cycling projects, from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. A large number of bids for tranche 1 contain a cycling element.

It is for Essex county council to determine its own plans for Colchester.

Cycling: Motor Vehicles

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the proportion of cyclists that own cars. [53988]

Norman Baker: Some 83% of the cyclists participating in the National Travel Survey in 2008 and 2009 were resident in a household with access to a car or van.

The equivalent overall figure for all survey respondents in Great Britain was 82%.

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's staff have taken early retirement in each of the last five years; and at what cost to his Department in each such year. [50843]

Norman Baker: Employees can retire or be retired early in the circumstances prescribed by the Civil Service Management Code. There is only a cost to the Department where an enhanced early retirement package is provided under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and is made up of a central Department and seven executive agencies.

The following table shows how many Department for Transport employees have taken early retirement in each of the last five years, as well as the cost for each year. It does not quantify ongoing savings which will result from changes to staffing levels.

	FER[1]/CER[2]		*AER[3]*	
	Number	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*
2006-07[4]	51	1,670,000	0	0
2007-08	125	14,280,000	0	0
2008-09	92	8,280,000	0	0
2009-10	157	13,640,000	0	0
2010-11	27	1,850,000	134	11,970,000

[1] FER =Flexible Early Retirement

[2] CER = Compulsory Early Retirement

[3] AER = Approved Early Retirement

[4] DfT(C) ran a voluntary early retirement scheme but detailed information is not readily available.

Departmental Manpower

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the costs of implementing staff reductions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [46473]

Norman Baker: By 2014-15, we expect to deliver a cumulative cost saving of around £270 million in real terms.

The current initial estimates for the costs of implementing staff reductions through exit and severance schemes in the Department for Transport are as follows:

£20.5 million in 2010-11 (of which £12.5 million is for the central Department)

£15.5 million in 2011-12 (of which £12.5 million is for the central Department)

The central Department also estimates it will spend £0.6 million in 2010-11 and £0.3 million in 2011-12 on the direct administrative costs of the Change Programme running in DfTc.

There are currently no estimates for costs from 2012-13 onwards.

Estimates for the costs (in £000) of implementing staff reductions in the Department's non-departmental public bodies are as follows:

	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Renewable Fuels Agency	No current estimate				
British Transport Police Authority	No current estimate				
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	DPTAC has no direct employees				
Directly Operated Railways Ltd.	No cost				
High Speed 2	No cost				
Northern Lighthouse Board	5	83	5	5	5
Railway Heritage Committee	The Railway Heritage Committee has no direct employees				
Traffic Commissioners and Deputy Traffic Commissioners	No current estimate				
Trinity House Lighthouse Service	500	600	500	500	500
Passenger Focus	Costs will be determined once reform plans have been agreed				
Cycling England	Cycling England has no direct employees				

Note:
All costs are estimates.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1218-9W, on departmental public appointments, for what reason the answer referred to a document that cannot be accessed from the website address given; and how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men no longer serve on public bodies sponsored by his Department because of decisions to close, merge or reorganise such bodies taken since his appointment. [51439]

Norman Baker: Our response dated 15 March 2011 provided a link to Public Bodies 2009 which is the latest confirmed information in relation to public appointees.

Further to this the following public bodies sponsored by the Secretary of State for Transport are subject to closure, merge or reorganisation and details are:

Organisation	*Date closed*	*Women no longer serving*	*Men no longer serving*
Commission for Integrated Transport	30 September 2010	16	5
Cycling England	31 March 2011	7	2
Office of the Renewable Fuels Agency	1 April 2011	4	0

Power Line Technology Devices: Complaints

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints his Department has received in respect of the use of power line technology devices in the last 12 months; and from where such complaints originated. [52882]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received no complaints in respect of the use of power line technology devices in the last 12 months.

Rescue Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many calls Humber coastguard station received during hours of *(a)* daylight and *(b)* darkness in each month of 2010. [52367]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* It is not possible to provide data in respect of emergency 999 calls and radio calls in the format requested as the data cannot be easily related to the times of sunrise and sunset by season. However, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency can confirm that the number of events (all entries in command and control system, excluding training, exercises and faults) Humber Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre received during 2010 is as follows:

Humber 2010

Events between:	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
09:00 to 19:00	121	82	93	127	134	173	211	240	117	110	98	78	1,584
19:00 to 09:00	57	53	55	69	71	110	119	120	80	60	57	58	909
Total	178	135	148	196	205	283	330	360	197	170	155	136	2,493

HM Coastguard does not envisage its proposals to modernise as outlined in the consultation document will increase response times.

Rolling Stock

Mr Darling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age of the train fleet was in each railway franchise in *(a)* 1996, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2010. [54037]

Mrs Villiers: Data showing the average age of the train fleet are publicly available on the Office of Rail Regulation's National Rail Trends webpage, which can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863

The average age of rolling stock has only been disaggregated between different train operating companies since 2010.

Before 2010, this information was split only by sector (Regional/Long distance/London and South East).

Transport: Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support his Department plans to provide to local authorities for the development of low-carbon based transport systems in the form of *(a)* bus transport powered by electricity and *(b)* trams in each of the next four financial years. [52203]

Norman Baker: The Department has no plans to provide support to local authorities for the development of low-carbon based transport systems in the specific form of bus transport powered by electricity. However, the Department has paid £46.8 million to local authorities and bus operators to assist them in purchasing 526 hybrid-electric and 16 all-electric buses through the Green Bus Fund. More details are available on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/greenbusfund/greenbusfundbusdetails/

On trams, since May 2010, we have supported a number of proposed extensions to existing light rail systems in operation. This includes confirming funding, with a Government contribution of over £120 million, for the Manchester metro link extensions to Ashton and East Didsbury which are currently under construction and expected to be in operation in 2013.

We announced on 4 February 2011 our intention to support the extension to Midland Metro Line One to Birmingham New Street station, with a Department for Transport contribution of £75.4 million towards the total scheme costs and in March 2011, we announced our continued support for the Nottingham Express Transit Phase 2 light rail PFI project. It is now for the promoters of these schemes to complete the procurement process and submit a final business case to the Department for final funding approval.

I have also initiated a study of light rail to see whether there are ways of making this mode of transport more cost-effective for the future. I am due to receive this study shortly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr Spencer: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the policy of the House of Commons Service is on the provision of country of origin information on menus in its restaurants and cafeterias. [54451]

John Thurso: The House of Commons Catering Service has no policy to provide country of origin information on menus in its restaurants and cafeterias. However, where the main food ingredient is specifically sourced from a particular region or farm, the source may be named in the menu dish description.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Security Certificate

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, (1) for what reason the security certificate for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority website has expired; [54873]

(2) on what date the security certificate for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority website expired; when the security certificate will be renewed; what assessment has been made of any risks resulting from the expiration of the security certificate; and who was responsible for permitting the security certificate to expire. [54874]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to these questions by the named day. An answer will be provided as soon as possible.

WALES

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department and its predecessor paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against her Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54691]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office had one civil claim in 2009-10. Although the tribunal found in favour of the Wales Office they ordered a payment due pursuant to contract in the sum of £2,957. The Wales Office legal costs were £48,104.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of her Department's budget she expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54572]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office is not an employer in its own right; its staff are supplied by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Ministry of Justice who retain the pension liabilities for their staff.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the staff vacancy rate was for her Department in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in her Department's budget for 2011-12. [54203]

Mr David Jones: There has been an average vacancy rate of 8% in the 2010-11 period. We do not assume an annual vacancy rate in the departmental budget.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Attorney-General how many times the Official Solicitor has been appointed to act as litigation friend of last resort for a person who lacks litigation capacity, in appeals against their detention, authorised under the deprivation of liberty safeguards, brought under section 21A of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; in how many of all section 21A appeals the Official Solicitor has acted in the deprivation of liberty authorisation was terminated by the court; how many of those section 21A appeals in which the Official Solicitor was appointed to act were brought by the detainee themselves; and how many section 21A appeals in which the Official Solicitor was appointed to act were initially brought by the detainee themselves, but were discontinued by the Official Solicitor on the basis that there was little prospect of success. [53673]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held by the Ministry of Justice and is not readily available. The cost of collating it would be disproportionate, as such an exercise would require the Official Solicitor to recover from secure storage all files relating to applications to the Court of Protection (other than those relating solely to Property and Affairs) and to then trawl through them for the relevant information to be obtained.

Lindis Percy: Public Finance

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Attorney-General what the total cost to the public purse was of the case brought by the Crown against Lindis Percy. [54297]

The Solicitor-General: It is estimated that the prosecution's costs in this case will be in the region of £945. This figure relates to counsel advocacy costs and does not include staff or running costs, which are attributable to the operation of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) as a whole and cannot be assessed on an individual case basis. The costs to the court and the defence are not collated by the CPS.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Deregulation

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he had with ministerial colleagues before including primary legislation on the Red Tape Challenge website; [53916]

(2) what definition of red tape he used to determine which regulations and legislation should be identified for potential repeal on the Red Tape Challenge website. [53917]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) on 5 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W.

Exports: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the value of UK higher education exports including *(a)* tuition fees, *(b)* other spending by overseas higher education students in the UK, *(c)* transnational education and *(d)* other higher education exports in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [54862]

Mr Willetts: The Department has recently received a draft report commissioned from London Economics on the value of education exports which will be published in due course. The Department has not made estimates previously, but according to Universities UK gross export earnings for the higher education sector in 2007/08 were estimated to be £5.3 billion.

Education exports are an area where the UK has strengths and where there is opportunity for growth, and the Government are determined to help institutions and organisations involved to realise these opportunities.

Higher Education: Finance

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of people who left higher education because their parents withheld or withdrew financial support in each of the last 10 years. [54506]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold information on the number of people who left higher education because their parents withheld or withdrew financial support in each of the last 10 years. The numbers of UK-domiciled students who were recorded as leaving their higher education course due to financial reasons in the academic years 2000/01 to 2009/10 are shown in the table as an alternative. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

UK-domiciled enrolments[1] who left their course having neither qualified nor transferred to another institution; and of this group, those who left due to financial reasons. UK higher education institutions—Academic years 2000/01 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Number who left their course having neither qualified nor transferred*	*of which: left for financial reasons*
2000/01	84,120	2,170
2001/02	95,390	2,045
2002/03	89,690	2,135
2003/04	93,900	2,155
2004/05	97,355	2,375
2005/06	94,070	2,390
2006/07	91,000	2,010
2007/08	103,335	2,010
2008/09	94,085	2,265
2009/10	103,180	2,600

[1] Covers postgraduate and undergraduate students of all ages and years of study enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Information on a student's reason for leaving is taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record. This information should be treated with some caution because the "Other personal reasons and dropped out" and "Other" fields are used extensively. Institutions are not always able to record the precise reason for leaving. Furthermore, HESA allows only one reason for withdrawal to be recorded, however it is likely that many students leave for a combination of reasons.

North Sea Oil

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met representatives of oil and gas companies to discuss investment in North Sea oil and gas fields since his appointment; [51590]

(2) on what date he or other Ministers in his Department most recently met representatives of the oil and gas industry to discuss investment in North Sea oil and gas fields. [51592]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), met Shell on 2 August 2010. There have been no other meetings between oil companies and other BIS Ministers.

Private Sector: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will strengthen the scrutiny arrangements in respect of *(a)* the financial health and *(b)* the quality of teaching at privately for-profit providers of higher education; and if he will make a statement. [54860]

Mr Willetts: The future regulatory regime for all providers of higher education will be considered in the forthcoming White Paper. This will set out the Government's proposals to encourage a more diverse and competitive higher education sector alongside an appropriate regulatory regime, which ensures high standards and protects students.

Research: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 917W, on research: finance, which highest scientific priorities were identified by the research councils and were not provided with additional funding following the Budget 2011. [52799]

Mr Willetts: The other capital projects identified by the research councils as their highest scientific priorities were:

ARCHER—a new national supercomputing service;

Hartree Centre—a new international centre for computational science and engineering at the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus;

Institute for Animal Health—Phase 3 of the redevelopment;

Rothera Research Station, Antarctica—upgraded facilities.

These priorities are subject to periodic revision by Research Councils UK as new capital projects evolve and to reflect the availability of capital.

UN Human Rights Council

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to implement the guiding principles on business and human rights submitted by Professor Ruggie to the UN Human Rights Council. [54412]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is a strong supporter of Professor John Ruggie and his work as the UN special representative on business and human rights and transnational corporations. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has worked with a range of interested Government Departments in respect of Professor Ruggie's work, which he is due to present to the Human Rights Council in Geneva in June 2011. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has been negotiating an update to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to include a new chapter drawing on Professor Ruggie's guiding principles. The Ministry of Justice represents the Government in the Equality and Human Rights Commission's business and human rights working group.

Universities

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate his Department has made of the potential number of universities in England that will be taken over by private institutions in the next five years. [54543]

Mr Willetts: The Department has not made such an estimate. Universities are private autonomous institutions and it is for their respective governing bodies to establish whether any changes of ownership would be in their long-term interest and that of their students.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that the rehabilitation of alcoholic offenders forms part of the Government's rehabilitation strategy. [54454]

Mr Blunt: We agree that rehabilitation for many offenders must start by tackling their dependency on alcohol. We continue to work closely with the Department of Health to ensure that the needs of offenders who are dependent on alcohol are effectively addressed.

To support these aims, our recent Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle" also set out proposals to increase the flexibility of treatment requirements, including alcohol treatment requirements, to ensure more offenders with alcohol problems gain access to treatment in the community. Later this year, the Government will publish a new Alcohol Strategy. Responses from the MoJ Green Paper consultation will be used to inform this.

CCTV: Evidence

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the adequacy of the quality of CCTV images for use as evidence in the courts. [53972]

Mr Blunt: None. However, the Home Office has published several reports on CCTV.

Cycling: Sentencing

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of cyclists involved in the *(a)* death and *(b)* serious injury of a pedestrian received a (i) custodial sentence, (ii) fine, (iii) community service order and (iv) other sentence in the last year for which figures are available. [53982]

Mr Blunt: Data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice do not include information about the circumstances of each case other than those which may be identified from a statute. It is therefore not possible to specifically identify offences in which cyclists are involved in death or injury or the status of victims, pedestrian or otherwise, involved in road traffic accidents.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54569]

Mr Djanogly: Because the Ministry does not yet know the final outcome of the proposed reforms of civil service staff pensions (following on from the Hutton review on public sector pensions), accurate forecasts about the proportion of the Ministry's budget allocated to staff pensions for each of the next five years are not available.

The proportion of the Ministry's budget allocated to staff pensions is also dependent upon the staff profile of the Department. Employer pension contributions (known as Accruing Superannuation Liability Charges) are based on five salary bands. Each band has a different percentage charge and they can be found on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/EPN287_tcm6-37911.pdf

As the Ministry implements organisational changes and reforms in response to the spending review announcements, the staff profile of the Department will change over the next five years. As a consequence, the future proportion of the Ministry's budget allocated to staff pensions can only be known once those changes and reforms have been implemented.

European Convention on Human Rights: Public Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the judgments of the European Convention on Human Rights since 1998. [54546]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has not made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of implementing the judgments since 1998 of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). The implementation of judgments issued by the ECtHR is the responsibility of the Government Department responsible for the policy area concerned.

The measures taken to implement judgments, and the costs and benefits of such measures, can vary considerably depending on the circumstances of the case, and some can be included in wider changes to policy or legislation. The provision of accurate estimates of the total costs associated with the implementation of the judgments of the ECtHR since 1998 would be extremely challenging and could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Visits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many Ministers representing the Government of the Isle of Man have visited his Department in the last three years; [54101]

(2) how many Ministers representing the Government of Jersey have visited his Department in the last three years; [54104]

(3) how many Ministers representing the Government of Guernsey have visited his Department in the last three years. [54105]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not keep information on the number of times Ministers from the Crown Dependencies have visited the Department. Ministry of Justice Ministers are in regular contact with representatives of the Crown Dependencies' Governments.

Legal Aid Scheme

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what discussions he has had with the Treasury Solicitor on his Department's proposals for reform of legal aid; [53922]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the effects on the work of the *(a)* Treasury Solicitor's Department and *(b)* Government Legal Service of his proposals for the reform of legal aid; and if he will make a statement. [53943]

Mr Djanogly: While Ministers and officials speak regularly with the Treasury Solicitor on general issues there have been no specific discussions concerning the legal aid reform proposals.

Impact assessments were published alongside the consultation paper, which detailed the potential impacts of the reforms. However, these did not consider the impact on either the Treasury Solicitor's Department or the Government Legal Service, and there is no intention to conduct such an assessment.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings on legal aid reform *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had at the request of hon. Members since 6 May 2010. [54226]

Mr Djanogly: I can confirm that the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke) and I have, between us, held a total of 14 meetings with hon. Members, either in person or over the telephone, on the subject of legal aid reform.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the ability of prospective claimants for clinical negligence compensation to access alternative funding mechanisms such as conditional fee agreements and before-the-event insurance following the implementation of his proposals to reform legal aid; [54265]

(2) whether he has assessed the merits of retaining legal aid for clinical negligence cases for the purposes of funding investigations and disbursements on the basis that if a case is considered to have good prospects it would continue under a conditional fee agreement. [54266]

Mr Djanogly: The consultation "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" closed on Monday 14 February 2011. The Government are due to publish their response later in the spring. An updated impact assessment will be published alongside the response on legal aid reform.

On 29 March 2011 the Government published "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response". This makes it clear that conditional fee agreements will continue to be available for clinical negligence cases. The Government intend to have a tightly drawn power to allow recoverability of after-the-event (ATE) insurance premiums to cover the cost of expert reports only in clinical negligence cases. The Government will continue to engage with claimant and defendant representatives and general liability insurers to ensure that joint expert reports can be commissioned wherever possible so that ATE insurance is not necessary. An updated impact assessment was published alongside the response on civil litigation funding and costs.

Regional Resolution Groups

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with regional resolution groups since 6 May 2010; [54224]

(2) what representations he has received from regional resolution groups since 6 May 2010. [54225]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), has not met with the regional resolution groups since May 2010 nor have I or my ministerial colleagues. However, I did meet with a representative of the national body in July, and in August last year I met Resolution national representatives, along with other mediation organisations, at a Family Mediation Stakeholder event.

Similarly, regional representations have not been received since May 2010 but the national body has responded to the recent consultation "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales".

Tax Avoidance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in Jersey; [54102]

(2) whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in Guernsey; [54103]

(3) whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in the Isle of Man. [54109]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), has had no recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality Duty: Public Sector

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions the Government Equalities Office has had with *(a)* race equality, *(b)* disability, *(c)* gender equality, *(d)* lesbian gay bisexual transgender, *(e)* older people and *(f)* other equalities organisations on the decision to re-draft and re-consult on the specific duties as part of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. [51741]

Lynne Featherstone: Ministers and officials meet regularly with interested equality organisations to discuss all aspects of their work. The policy review paper, published on 17 March, sought comments from all interested parties, including equality organisations, on the proposed changes to the draft specific duties regulations.

EDUCATION

Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he plans to publish the correspondence between his Department and Abraham Guest School after the issue of conversion to academy status has been resolved; [53247]

(2) what his Department's policy was on the publication of correspondence between his Department and maintained schools on the issue of conversion to academy status in each of the last five years. [53248]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not routinely publish all correspondence between the Department and schools that are becoming academies, and has never done so. The Expression of Interest for Abraham Guest High School to become a sponsored academy is currently being worked up by the sponsor and the local authority. Once complete, it will come to Ministers for approval.

For sponsored academy projects, the Department's practice is to publish the approved Expression of Interest document on its website. Once a funding agreement is approved it is also published on the Department's website.

When an Expression of Interest in a sponsored academy project has been approved, Ministers write to the MP in whose constituency the academy is to be located, to inform them of this. Ministers also write in similar terms to the constituency MP once a funding agreement has been approved.

Children: Armed Forces

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to allow children of parents serving in the armed forces to be given higher priority in the allocation of school places; and if he will make a statement. [54625]

Mr Gibb: The School Admissions Code already places some requirements on admission authorities to help ensure that children of service personnel are not disadvantaged as a consequence of their mobility. As announced in the Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", we are currently reviewing the code in order to simplify its requirements, and will be consulting on a revised code shortly. It will continue to ensure that the needs of the children of service personnel are taken into account.

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children under five years were in child care places provided by *(a)* child minders, *(b)* private or voluntary nurseries, *(c)* nursery schools and *(d)* nursery classes in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003 and (iii) 2009-10; and what proportion of children in registered child care settings these figures represent in each local authority area. [54122]

Mr Gibb: This information is not available in the form requested. The relevant data are not available for 1997. Data for 2010 have not yet been published.

Table 1 shows information at a national level on all children attending full day care settings, child minders, nursery schools and primary schools with nursery and reception classes in 2003 and 2009. Table 2 shows regional information on the number of children aged under five years attending private or voluntary full day care settings, nursery schools and primary schools with reception and nursery classes in 2009. Table 3 shows the regional information on the number of children of any age attending child minders in 2009.

The information presented has been taken from the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey is a survey series which began in 1998 and collects information on the number of children attending various types of formal child care in England. These data are not available at local authority level. Data on the number of children under five attending child minders by region are also unavailable and are therefore not presented in table 2. Care is taken to avoid double counting in individual providers but as individual children can attend more than one setting some double counting is unavoidable.

Table 1: Number of children attending child care and early years provision

	Number of children	
	2003	2009
Full day care[1]	649,400	873,900
Child minders[2]	n/a	276,600
Nursery schools[3]	35,800	39,800
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes[4]	475,400	494,200

Base: Child care providers 2009, 2003. Early years provision in maintained schools 2009, 2003.

[1] Full day care: defined as "facilities that provide day care for children under eight for a continuous period of four hours or more in a day in premises which are not domestic premises." These figures include full day care setting under all types of ownership. The 2009 survey found that 88% of full day care settings were privately or voluntarily owned, of the remainder, 4% were managed by a local authority, 6% by a school/college, and 2% indicated an 'other' type of ownership.

[2] "A childminder is registered to look after one or more children under the age of eight to whom they are not related on domestic premises for reward and for a total of more than two hours in any day." These data are unavailable for 2003.

[3] Nursery schools: these ""provide education for children under the age of five and over the age of two". Maintained nursery schools generally accept children in term time.

[4] Primary schools with nursery and reception classes: some primary schools offer both nursery and reception classes, these operate throughout the school year. These figures will include children in reception classes as well as those in nursery classes.

Table 2: Children aged under five years attending various types of child care settings by region (2009)

	Setting type		
Region	Private or voluntary full day care settings	Nursery schools	Primary schools with nursery and reception classes[1]
East Midlands	53,100	1,900	25,300
East of England	78,800	4,300	28,600
London	79,700	6,600	85,200
North East	18,400	3,100	29,900
Yorkshire and Humberside	76,600	2,700	46,400
North West	104,400	6,300	59,800
South East	148,700	4,100	27,500
South West	83,000	3,200	9,500
West Midlands	82,900	5,100	51,600
Total	725,600	37,300	363,800

Table 2: Children aged under five years attending various types of child care settings by region (2009)

[1] Again, these figures will include children in reception classes as well as those in nursery classes.

Table 3: Children of any age attending child minders by region (2009)

Region	Childminders
East Midlands	27,700
East of England	34,800
London	33,600
North East	44,400
Yorkshire and Humberside	30,100
North West	55,500
South East	27,700
South West	22,800
West Midlands	27,6600
Total	

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether discretionary learner support funding for 16 to 19 education is to be means tested. [53996]

Mr Gibb: Under the proposed arrangements for the 16-19 Bursary Fund, schools, further education colleges, sixth form colleges and training organisations will be able to exercise their discretion to award 16-19 Bursaries to young people in ways that best fit local needs and circumstances. The Department will not set any expectation that awards under the new scheme should formally be means tested.

We are consulting on the details of the new arrangements and will work with the Association of Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges Forum and others to consider how schools, colleges and training organisations can identify those students who would benefit from support under the proposed arrangements.

Education: Assessments

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department issues guidance to *(a)* examination boards and *(b)* schools on the circumstances in which children may be granted additional time to complete public examinations. [54596]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not issue guidance. Guidance on granting of additional time is provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications which is independent of Government and represents the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK.

The guidance "Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration 2010-11" can be viewed at

http://www.jcq.org.uk/attachments/published/538/22.%20AARASC%201011.pdf

Extra-curricular Activities

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Playing for Success partnerships in increasing attendance at school by participants; [52285]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Playing for Success partnerships in increasing academic achievement; [52286]

(3) from which Playing for Success schemes his Department has withdrawn funding; [52287]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Playing for Success partnerships in reducing offending by participants; [52288]

(5) what estimate has been made of the level of savings which will accrue from the withdrawal of funding from the Playing for Success programme; [52289]

(6) how many Playing for Success study centres *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has visited since May 2010. [52314]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* The contract for the operational management and delivery of the Playing for Success (PfS) programme ran for a three-year period beginning in April 2008. It expired at the end of March 2011. Central funding to support Playing for Success study centres in England, therefore, came to an end at the same time.

The level of funding made available to support Playing for Success in each of the three years of the last spending review period was approximately £14.5 million, including the contract and support to individual centres.

Four independent national evaluations were carried out over the course of the Playing for Success programme, all of which focused on the impact on academic achievement. There has been no assessment of the effectiveness of the programme in increasing attendance at school or in reducing offending by participants. The evaluations have all found improvements in literacy and numeracy levels, information and communication technology (ICT) skills, attitudes to learning, and self-esteem. The evaluation in May 2007 looked at the long-term impact of PfS in terms of pupils' performance in national curriculum assessments (NCAs) and found a more mixed picture. While there appeared to be a positive impact on under-achieving pupils, which was the programme's target group, it concluded that PfS is not an inoculation against underperformance, and continued progress should be a shared responsibility.

In the programme's final year of central funding, the Department supported the contractors Rex Hall Associates to work with a selected number of study centres to gather more information about the impact of the programme on pupil engagement, motivation, achievement, and progress, as well as seeking the views of parents, teachers, and PfS centre managers. The information that was gathered from this exercise was used to support schools, local authorities, and clubs in deciding how they might continue to develop and sustain the programme into the future.

Ministers have not visited any Playing for Success study centres since May 2010. Rex Hall Associates have maintained responsibility for working with centres, and undertaking regular meetings and visits to advise and support them as central funding has come to an end.

Free School

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate has been made of the average number of pupils who will attend a school which has been approved as a free school. [54231]

Mr Gibb: It is not possible at this point to provide an estimate of the average number of pupils who will attend a free school because parents are still in the process of applying for places.

Further Education: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* number of students and *(b)* average size of financial reward that will be allocated through discretionary education funds for 16 to 19 education; and if he will make it his policy to ensure that such figures are published at regular intervals in future. [52922]

Mr Gibb: We have estimated that around 12,000 young people may be eligible each year for a guaranteed annual bursary of £1,200. Beyond this, the 16-19 Bursary fund is discretionary and decisions as to who will be supported and to what level will be made by schools, colleges and training organisations.

Currently schools, colleges and training organisations with an allocation of discretionary learner support funds are required to provide management information to the Young People's Learning Agency. We expect that this arrangement will continue for the 16-19 Bursary funding, allowing us to monitor its introduction. In addition we are considering how best to evaluate the impact of the new arrangements.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many 16 to 19-year-olds he estimates will receive support through the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund in *(a)* Gateshead constituency and *(b)* the North East in the first year of its operation. [53332]

Mr Gibb: We estimate that there are around 12,000 young people currently in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA) in England who are in one of the groups that will, under the 16-19 Bursary scheme, receive a bursary of £1,200 a year. It is not possible to break this data down by constituency, local authority or region.

All students in full-time education or training will be eligible to apply for support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund. Decisions as to which students should receive support will be made locally by schools, colleges and training providers.

Further Education: Free School Meals

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to link entitlement to free school meals to discretionary learner support funding for 16 to 19 education; and if he will make a statement. [52660]

Mr Gibb: Under the proposed arrangements for the 16-19 bursary funding, further education and sixth form colleges will be able to exercise their discretion to award 16-19 bursaries to young people—including young people who were in receipt of free school meals in year 11—in ways that best fit local needs and circumstances. We have no plans to link eligibility for free school meals directly to discretionary learner support funding.

We are consulting on the details of the new arrangements and will work with the Association of Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges Forum and others to consider how, at a local level, colleges could work with schools and local authorities to identify those students who might benefit from a bursary.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral statement of 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 53, on post-16 education funding, how many young people who were eligible for free school meals in year 11 progressed to a *(a)* sixth form college and *(b)* further education college in each of the last five academic years; and if he will estimate the level of funding which would be required to ensure that this number of students could receive up to £800 per academic year in discretionary learner support funding for 16 to 19 education for each such year. [53321]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold data on how many young people who were eligible for free school meals in year 11 progress to sixth form college or further education college. The latest data show that 13% of 15-year-olds are eligible for free school meals.

We are projecting that there will be just over 1,275,000 16 to 18-year-olds in full-time education and training in 2011/12. At an average of £800, the money being made available under the 16-18 bursary fund would support bursaries to over 15% of 16 to 18-year-olds in full-time education and training; more than sufficient to cover all of those eligible for free school meals in year 11.

Health Education: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish quality standards in respect of the provision and commissioning of drug education in schools. [54402]

Mr Gibb: All schools are required to deliver drug and alcohol education within the national curriculum for science and as part of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. The Department's guidance, 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' (2004), provides advice to schools on commissioning and providing high quality drug and alcohol education within these requirements.

Our recent schools white paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', set out our proposals for reforming the school curriculum. We are developing a new national curriculum which will result in new programmes of study for science. We shall be conducting an internal review of PSHE education to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of the PSHE education they deliver, including drug and alcohol education. As part of the review, we will consider what guidance schools might need on the provision and commissioning of drug and alcohol education.

Secondary Education: First Aid

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the number of maintained secondary schools in England that teach first aid; and how many such schools train their pupils in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. [53663]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect data on the number of schools that teach first aid, or on the number that train their pupils in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. The non-statutory framework for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education includes teaching young people at primary school level about basic emergency procedures and where to get help; and at secondary school level, to develop the skills to cope with emergency situations that require basic first aid procedures, including, at key stage 4 (ages 15-16), resuscitation techniques.

Students: Finance

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his proposed 16-19 education bursary scheme will replace the *(a)* Care to Learn, *(b)* Dance and Drama Awards and *(c)* Residential Support schemes; and if he will make a statement. [54399]

Mr Gibb: The 16-19 bursary scheme does not replace Care to Learn, Dance and Drama Awards and Residential Support schemes. Those schemes will be continuing in 2011/12.

Teachers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the number of failing teachers in the latest period for which figures are available. [54547]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect data about the number of failing teachers but according to Ofsted's latest annual report, 4% of teaching in 2009/10 was inadequate.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what criteria operational allowances are made in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and if he will make statement. [54811]

Mr Robathan: The aim of the operational allowance is to recognise the significantly increased and enduring nature of the danger in specific operational locations.

The Permanent Joint Headquarters undertake risk and rigour assessments, the contents of which are classified, and make recommendations to Ministers on whether the allowance should be paid. They review their assessment biannually.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pilots were in receipt of operational allowances in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [54895]

Mr Robathan: The operational allowance was introduced in October 2006 and was doubled to its current value of £29.02 per day in May 2010. Data are not held in the format requested prior to 2009. The following table shows the total number of pilots who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 1 April 2009 and have received the operational allowance:

Country	*1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010*	*1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011*
Iraq	80	[1]—
Afghanistan	440	450

[1] Fewer than five

Note:

All totals have been rounded to nearest 10

Air Force: Guided Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single mode Brimstone missiles the Royal Air Force has. [53597]

Peter Luff: Information relating to current and future in-service Brimstone missile stock levels is being withheld because its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people under the age of 18 serving in the armed forces were court-martialled in each of the last 10 years; and what *(a)* charges were brought and *(b)* action was taken in each case. [52871]

Mr Robathan: For the naval service, records indicate that in the last 10 years, three personnel were under 18 years of age at the time of their trial/sentencing by court martial. In a very small number of additional cases, information on date of birth is not readily available and the age of the personnel involved cannot therefore be confirmed.

Naval service

	Charge	*Sentence*
2006	Battery and attempted wounding	13 months detention
2007	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (this individual was dealt with under the Army Act)	£50 fine and payment in compensation of £500
2008	Battery	28 days detention suspended, £100 compensation

In the Army in the last 10 years, 41 individuals under the age of 18 were charged with various offences. The details are provided in the following table.

Army

	Charge	*Sentence*
2001	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	28 days detention
2002	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Pay suspended: £150
	Acting to pervert the course of justice and four charges of battery	£900 fine for battery: acquitted of remaining charges
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	£250 fine
	Battery	£150 fine
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	£1,200 fine
	Offences against the Person Act 1861	£100 fine and pay suspended £1,000
2003	Handling stolen goods	£75 fine
	Indecent assault	10 months detention and 2.5 years on sexual offences register
	Aggravated vehicle taking	Pay suspended £2,830
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	£500 fine
	Absent without leave	112 days detention and dismissal from service
2004	Inflicting grievous bodily harm	84 days detention
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Pay suspended £1,200 and restriction of privileges for 14 days
2005	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Acquitted
	Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline	54 days detention and dismissal from service
	Battery	£750 fine and pay suspended £250
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	69 days detention and dismissal from service
	Unlawful wounding and assault	Eight months detention suspended for a year and pay suspended £1,000
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	£500 fine
2006	Affray	11 months detention
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	56 days detentions suspended for one year and pay suspended £250
	Absent without leave	26 days detention
2007	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	22 days detention
	Fighting	£100 fine
	Sexual assault	Dismissal from service
	Harassment	42 days detention
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	£900 fine and pay suspended £300

Army

	Charge	*Sentence*
	Absent without leave	90 days detention and suspended for 12 months
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm	90 days detention suspended for one year and pay suspended £500
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	£250 fine and pay suspended by £750
	Battery	£850 fine
	Battery	£650 fine
	Battery	£850 fine
2008	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm and supply of drugs	Dismissal from service and 40 days detention
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Admonished
2009	Inflicting grievous bodily harm	Nine months detention
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Seven months detention
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	£300 fine
	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Service supervision and punishment order for 30 days and payment of compensation of £250
2010	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	20 days detention suspended for one year and compensation payment of £600

The RAF is unable to provide details of the number of under-18s who were court-martialled in each of the last 10 years as this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the joint personnel administration system's disciplinary database, which contains data from 2009 onwards, indicates that no RAF personnel under the age of 18 have been court-martialled.

Bahrain: Defence

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what British military assets are based in Bahrain. [54759]

Nick Harvey: In Bahrain, the UK Maritime Component Command consists of 60 personnel plus normally four Mine Counter-Measure Vessels and their shore support of 24 personnel. In addition, we have two RAF Communications flight aircraft (one x BAE146 and one x HS125) and their support of 42 personnel. The British embassy in Bahrain also has a Defence Section, consisting of two personnel.

Departmental Contracts

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* timescale is of the contract awarded to the Turner Group in respect of facilities management provided to his Department; and whether there is a clause to extend the contract if required. [54213]

Mr Robathan: The current value of facilities management contracts with the Turner Group is some £150 million. This includes the Regional Prime Contract in Scotland which was recently extended from its initial seven year term until 31 March 2013. There is no ability to extend the contract beyond that date.

A further contract providing other infrastructure services to six RAF bases is a five year contract up to 30 April 2014 with an option to extend until 30 April 2016.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54637]

Mr Robathan: Data relating to civil claims for compensation are not recorded in the format requested. The overall payments for financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are set out in the following table. Figures for 2010-11 will be available in July 2011.

Financial year	*Payments (£ million)*
2009-10	89.9
2008-09	83.7
2007-08	85.7

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54559]

Mr Robathan: Civil service pensions are paid out of a central Government fund and do not form part of departmental expenditure. The following table, however, shows the proportion of the Department's budget that we currently plan to set aside in financial years 2011-12 to 2014-15 as a contribution towards civil service pensions. Figures for 2015-16 cannot be provided as this is outside of the current spending review period.

	Percentage
2011-12	0.94
2012-13	0.92
2013-14	0.93
2014-15	0.95

The proportion of the Department's budget that is expected to be set aside as a contribution towards service personnel pensions is set out in the following table.

	Percentage
2011-12	6.33
2012-13	6.25
2013-14	6.46
2014-15	6.87

Guided Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many dual mode Brimstone missiles his Department has ordered in each of the last six months; [53595]

(2) how long it takes to convert a single mode Brimstone missile to a dual mode; and what the cost is for each such conversion. [53596]

Peter Luff: In addition to our existing stocks, the Ministry of Defence placed an order for 150 Dual Mode Brimstone missiles in December 2010, the only one in the last six months.

After contract placement, the Prime Contractor is contracted to spend six to nine months preparing the missiles for conversion and procuring materiel, after which they will be delivered in monthly batches. We are working closely with the Prime Contractor to ensure the continuing availability of Dual Mode Brimstone for Operations Herrick and Ellamy.

The cost of this conversion is between £35,000 and £45,000 (excluding VAT) per missile dependent on quantities ordered.

A range of weapons is currently being used for operations in Libya including Brimstone missiles, Paveway II, Paveway IV, Stormshadow missiles and Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles.

Libya

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what circumstances pilots operating in Libya would be eligible to receive operational allowance payments; and if he will make a statement. [54853]

Mr Robathan: The aim of the operational allowance is to recognise the significantly increased and enduring nature of the danger in specified operational locations. Libya is not considered as such at this time, but we keep this under constant review.

Service personnel involved in operations over Libya may however be eligible to receive other allowances such as longer separation allowance, and possibly local overseas allowance and messing allowances dependent on their precise circumstances.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Royal Navy's nuclear submarine reactor programme will be included in the scope of the review to be conducted by HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations into lessons for the UK nuclear industry following the Fukushima nuclear accident. [54533]

Peter Luff: The scope of the review is focused primarily on the civil nuclear sector. However, the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator is working with HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations on his report to assess whether there are any implications for the UK's nuclear submarine programme.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department provided to each charity it funds in each of the last five years; and how much he has allocated for funding to each such charity in each of the next five years. [48289]

Mr Robathan: Funding provided through grants in aid to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in each of the last five years for which figures are currently available is shown in the following table. A grant in aid is typically used to fund part or all of the administration costs of the recipient body.

Grant in aid

£

Body	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
RAF Museum	7,104,192	6,774,110	7,019,000	7,989,309	7,367,000
RAF Sports Control Board	83,000	—	65,865	149,837	288,387
Air Training Corps	[1]—	33,005	34,000	34,850	35,721
RAF Sports Board	[1]—	165,923	—	—	—
Royal British Legion Polish Ex-Servicemen	[1]—	81,567	141,000	120,000	110,181
Royal British Legion War Widows	[1]—	65,665	61,000	61,000	62,220
National Memorial Arboretum	[1]—	250,000	—	371,296	169,594
Skill Force	3,002,000	2,502,000	1,000,000	500,000	250,000
Victoria and George Cross Reunion Association	[1]—	30,000	—	40,000	—
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	31,643,000	32,392,094	34,199,339	36,601,286	47,844,871
Scott Polar Research Institute	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Armed Forces Memorial	[1]—	—	189,220	—	290,469
National Army Museum	4,871,546	5,292,879	5,489,000	5,734,850	5,515,222
Army Sports Control Board	404,000	307,245	417,195	434,032	425,744
Council of Voluntary Welfare Work	[1]—	125,469	80,448	85,273	77,793
Gurkha Welfare Trust	[1]—	679,010	988,000	1,077,000	938,000
Army Families Federation	[1]—	291,444	293,190	300,093	332,100
Council of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations	—	—	57,489,076	59,369,448	63,490,300
Royal Irish Home Service Benevolent Fund	—	—	—	—	124,179
Royal Hospital Chelsea	9,207,000	9,232,000	9,554,000	10,487,000	10,824,000
Fleet Air Arm Museum	579,063	593,724	614,000	631,000	[2]—

Grant in aid

£

Body	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Royal Marine Museum	783,252	740,788	765,480	783,000	[2]—
Royal Navy Museum	1,025,044	895,502	873,000	1,045,000	[2]—
RN Submarine Museum	548,317	561,997	575,708	591,000	[2]—
National Museum of the Royal Navy	—	—	—	—	3,237,466
Naval Families Federation	[1]—	149,220	92,620	185,000	223,000
Royal Navy Marine Society and Sea Cadets	—	8,228,969	9,300,419	8,941,426	9,450,215
RN Sports Board	117,000	272,907	—	—	—

[1] Not available.

[2] Funded through the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

We also provide funding to charities through grants (for specific purposes) and commercial contractual arrangements (for specific services). A breakdown of the expenditure incurred could be provided only at disproportionate cost as these funding mechanisms are delegated locally and we do not currently identify discretely those grants and contracts which relate to charities. Details of all new central Government contracts are, however, now available online at:

www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk

I will write to the hon. Member to provide information on grant in aid funding for 2010-11, and on currently planned funding over the spending review period (up to 2014-15), once the details have been finalised for all bodies, which should be before the Whitsun recess.

I apologise for the delay in answering this question.

War Widows: Pensions

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the practice of removing the pensions of military widows when they remarry; and if he will make a statement. [54151]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 5 May 2011]*: Successive Governments have maintained the principle that changes or improvements to public service pension schemes should not be applied retrospectively. This is because legacy pension issues cannot be looked at in isolation. Addressing one issue would increase the pressure to address legacy issues in all public sector pension schemes and this would have huge financial implications.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many armoured cars used by his Department in Afghanistan have been lent to other organisations in the latest period for which figures are available. [54613]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: None of them.

Burma: Earthquakes

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the level of financial support provided by the Government of Burma for emergency relief for those affected by the earthquake in Shan State, Burma. [53977]

Mr Duncan: The Burmese Government have not provided information on the cost of the emergency relief that they are providing in Shan State. We understand from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that the Burmese Government have provided cash assistance, food and medicines for the affected communities. Other donors, including UN agencies, international and local NGOs, neighbouring countries and the private sector, are also providing assistance.

Burma: Malaria

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of deaths in Burma from malaria in 2009; if he will assess the accuracy of estimates of the number of deaths made by the Burmese Government; and if he will make a statement. [53978]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made an independent estimate of the number of deaths in Burma from malaria in 2009. The officially reported figure for malaria-related deaths in Burma in 2009 is 972, based on health system data which may be limited.

According to the World Health Organisation, malaria is endemic in 284 of the 325 townships in Burma. An estimated 68% of Burma's population is at a risk of contracting the disease. Combating malaria is a high priority for UK aid for Burma, working through UN agencies and non-governmental organisations rather than the Burmese central Government.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will publish information on expenditure for reproductive, maternal and newborn health interventions in 2008-09 under the UK's Framework for Results, Choices for Women: Planned Pregnancies, Safe Births and Healthy Newborns, similar to the information on expenditure on malaria in the UK's Framework for Results for Malaria. [52951]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure in 2008-09 are published in "Statistics on International Development" (SID), which is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/sid2010/a3.xls?epslanguage=en

Interventions on women's and children's health are captured across a number of the expenditure categories provided in SID and cannot be further disaggregated without disproportionate cost.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to publish information on spending commitments for reproductive, maternal and newborn health interventions for 2010-11 under the UK's Framework for Results, Choices for Women: Planned Pregnancies, Safe Births and Healthy Newborns. [52952]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The internationally agreed methodology for monitoring the Government's spending commitments on women's and children's health is provided in table A of the UK's Framework for Results for improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health. The methodology will be used to track the Government's expenditure annually and this will be published in the G8 accountability reports along with the expenditure of other donors.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how his Department's planned detailed evaluation framework under the UK's Framework for Results, Choices for Women: Planned Pregnancies, Safe Births and Healthy Newborns will relate to the accountability framework to be produced by the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health; [52953]

(2) with reference to Annex A5 of the UK's Framework for Results, Choices for Women: Planned Pregnancies, Safe Births and Healthy Newborns, what timetable he has set for the release of the detailed evaluation framework. [52954]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Work is currently in progress to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the UK's Framework for Results for improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health. This will be made available in mid 2011. The Government will work to achieve alignment between our framework and the Commission's accountability framework.

Lord's Resistance Army

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support is provided by his Department to counter the influence of the Lord's Resistance Army in *(a)* Uganda and *(b)* the Democratic Republic of Congo. [54238]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government are an active member of the International Working Group on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) which, along with the African Union, co-ordinates the regional response that this threat requires.

In Uganda, the Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting post conflict recovery and national reconciliation. This year, DFID will fund the construction of over 1,000 new houses for teachers and health workers; create new vocational training and job opportunities for over 4,000 young people and provide grants to small businesses especially those run by women affected by the conflict.

In the DRC, where LRA activity continues to have a significant impact, DFID is one of the largest donors supporting a United Nations (UN) led effort to provide humanitarian assistance in areas most vulnerable to LRA attacks. The UK Government are supporting the UN peace keeping mission to encourage rebel combatants, including the LRA, to surrender and return to their communities. This has led to the disarmament of a steady number of LRA combatants.

North Korea: Overseas Aid

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides aid to North Korea. [54301]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development does not have an aid programme for North Korea. The case for providing emergency assistance to meet urgent humanitarian needs in North Korea will be kept under review.

Syria: Overseas Aid

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department is providing to Syria; and what steps he has taken to ensure that such aid does not assist Syrian security forces. [54032]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Britain does not have a bilateral programme in Syria.

Britain is providing £1 million to UNHCR in 2011-12 for Iraqi refugees in Syria and approx £1.5-£1.8 million of our support to UNRWA this year will go to Palestinian refugees in Syria. The last Government started providing a small amount of assistance to Syria through the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as part of a multi-country programme for improving natural resource governance for rural poverty reduction (approximately £150,000 over 2008-13, of which, £75,000 has already been spent). The EC provides some co-operation through the European Neighbourhood Partnership Initiative (ENPI), of which the UK's contribution is approximately 15% for 2011. Under the ENPI, €129 million has been programmed for 2011-13. On account of the current situation, the EC is not signing any new projects to Syria and has agreed to review all assistance to Syria.

Britain is in contact with international humanitarian partners to monitor the situation in Syria and is encouraging them to make contingency plans for any humanitarian emergency that may develop. No UK delivered aid assistance to Syria is currently considered at risk of appropriation by security forces. In the case of potential future humanitarian funding, this risk will be evaluated as part of any funding decision.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Public Expenditure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to lay before the House a legislative proposal to give effect to the Fourth Carbon Budget; and if he will make a statement. [54695]

Gregory Barker: The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the Government to set the level of the fourth carbon budget in law not later than 30 June 2011. Section 8 of the Act specifies that the order setting the carbon budget is subject to affirmative resolution procedure.

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what priorities he has set for the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Durban. [54375]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to working towards an ambitious global legally binding climate deal that will limit emissions and keep global average temperature rises to below 2° above pre-industrial levels. We will be working with our international partners, both in the European Union and bilaterally, to make progress in implementing the agreements reached at Cancun and to secure further practical progress by the time of the next Conference of Parties in Durban in November this year.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54561]

Gregory Barker: Based on pension contributions in 2010-11, the estimated cost of DECC staff pensions as a proportion of the budget will be a third of a percent through the spending review period. This assumes that pension contributions remain at the same rates throughout the period, and that there is no significant alteration in the staffing and grade mix of the Department.

The latest spending review agreed departmental budgets to 2014-15, therefore we have no information beyond this date.

Electrical Engineering

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the potential cost of retrofitting existing electrical infrastructure with measures to protect against an electromagnetic pulse or solar flare; [54204]

(2) whether he has met representatives of the energy industries to discuss voluntary implementation of protective measures for electric infrastructure projects to protect against an electromagnetic pulse or solar flare; [54205]

(3) whether he has met representatives of the energy industries to discuss the potential for measures requiring future electric infrastructure projects to protect against an electromagnetic pulse or solar flare. [54206]

Gregory Barker: We are very aware of the potential implications for electricity infrastructure of severe space weather or an electromagnetic pulse (EMP). National Grid, as operator of the GB's electricity transmission network, has taken steps to reduce the risks, including daily monitoring of space weather information, and ensuring that operational procedures are in place to mitigate the potential impacts. Furthermore, National Grid's specification for purchasing supergrid transformers requires a level of resilience based on the space weather event of 1989. DECC officials meet regularly with representatives from the energy industries to discuss a wide range of hazards and threats to energy networks. We are now working closely with National Grid to understand better the probability and impact on electricity networks of more severe space weather events than the networks in the UK have previously experienced. Robust scientific and technical evidence is needed before any decisions can be taken on further measures and associated costs to protect against electromagnetic hazards and threats. Further advice from National Grid is expected by the summer.

Electricity: Meters

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to minimise the cost of the smart meter roll-out. [53854]

Charles Hendry: On 30 March 2011, DECC and Ofgem published the response to the consultation on the Smart Metering Prospectus. The response sets out detailed plans for the roll-out of smart meters, including conclusions on the regulatory and commercial arrangements needed to enable the roll-out to be completed in a cost-efficient and timely way.

Within this framework common specifications for smart metering equipment will be determined by the Government, based on an assessment of the costs and benefits. The approach will also involve central provision of communications and data services for smart metering following a competitive procurement process, which the Government have concluded following the roll-out. Suppliers will be responsible for procuring and installing smart meters for their customers, and they will have strong commercial incentives to deliver a good service at the lowest cost.

Energy Companies: Finance

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the HM Treasury publication, Control Framework for DECC levy-funded spending, what estimate he has made of the maximum funds available for the Energy Companies Obligation in each of the next three years. [54819]

Gregory Barker: ECO will fall within the control framework for levies-funded policies only if it is classified as a tax and spend policy. Classification decisions are made by the Office for National Statistics which has yet to consider the classification of ECO.

DECC will not set the funding available for the ECO, rather DECC will set the outcomes the policy will deliver, allowing competitive pressure between the energy companies to keep delivery costs down.

We will be consulting on policy proposals, and their potential cost implications in the autumn.

Energy: Housing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* small building companies and *(b)* the Federation of Master Builders on the inclusion of the building sector in the Green Deal market. [54413]

Gregory Barker: The Department is in regular contact with the Federation of Master Builders and with other small building companies to ensure smaller construction companies are well placed to take advantage of the opportunities under the Green Deal, and can help contribute to its development.

The FMB are also represented on the Green Deal Capacity and Innovation Forum which informs policy development on support for all relevant sectors.

Environment Protection: Business

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what steps he is taking to provide information to businesses about the potential financial benefits of adopting sustainable business practices; [52830]

(2) what mechanisms he has put in place to encourage businesses to adopt sustainable business practices. [52831]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

On 11 March 2011 DEFRA published the results of research on the financial benefits to be gained by adopting sustainable business practices, which found that with little or no investment British business could save approximately £23 billion a year by improving energy and water use and reducing waste. The final report is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16943&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=EV0441&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc& Paging=10#Description

The Business Link website (www.businesslink.gov.uk) is the Government's primary route for providing information to help businesses achieve these savings. Information about sustainable business practices can be found under the "Environment and Efficiency" theme.

To complement and build upon the Business Link service, DEFRA is providing the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) with £35 million in 2011-12 to help businesses, communities and individuals become more sustainable, through the provision of more targeted and specialist advice and support on material resource efficiency.

DEFRA also provides guidance on how businesses should report on their environmental impacts in their company reports through the Environmental Key Performance Indicators and specific guidance on how organisations should measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions.

In November 2010 the Secretary of State laid a report before Parliament that considered the potential benefits of reporting greenhouse gas emissions for both companies and investors, which can be seen at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting/pdf/corporate-reporting101130.pdf

Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition his Department uses of clean fossil fuel energy production. [54269]

Gregory Barker: We do not have a departmental definition of the term "clean fossil fuel energy". However, phrases of this nature are often used to refer to measures, such as the deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS), that lower carbon emissions from the generation of electricity using fossil fuels.

Fuels: Garages and Petrol Stations

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the strategic importance of independent fuel retailers in ensuring national availability of fuel. [54805]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a diverse, open and competitive fuel retail market that we consider to be in the wider long-term interest of consumers. There are a large number of petrol retailers and forecourt operators that make a significant contribution to ensuring the availability of fuel across the UK. Ownership of the more than 8,500 forecourts in the UK and associated arrangements are a matter for fuel retailers operating in the market.

The Office of Fair Trading regulates markets in the UK through enforcement of competition law, to ensure that markets work well for the benefit of consumers.

Natural Gas

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what subsidies Centrica received from the public purse in respect of its operations in the Morecambe Bay area in the last five years; [54784]

(2) whether he plans to bring forward proposals for a new liquid natural gas floating platform in the Morecambe Bay area; and whether he plans to make any subsidies available for such a project; [54785]

(3) whether gas platforms in the Morecambe Bay area export gas direct from source to other countries; [54794]

(4) if he will estimate the contribution of the gas industry to levels of employment in the Morecambe Bay area; [54795]

(5) whether he has discussed with *(a)* Centrica and *(b)* other gas exploration companies the potential for construction of a floating platform for the extraction of liquid natural gas in the vicinity of Morecambe Bay; [54891]

(6) what estimate he has made of the quantity of natural gas remaining in the South Morecambe Bay area. [54892]

Charles Hendry: No subsidies from the public purse have been made in respect of Centrica's operations in the Morecambe Bay area during the last five years. Hoeg LNG AS have applied for a pipeline works authorisation for an LNG import facility (Port Meridian) which would involve a pipeline and unloading buoy for liquid natural gas in the Morecambe Bay area. No subsidies are involved or are being considered for this project. The Department has had no discussions with any other operators on licensing similar projects in the Morecambe Bay area.

Gas platforms in the Morecambe Bay area do not export any gas directly to other countries. I cannot comment on the quantity of remaining natural gas reserves in the South Morecambe Bay area as this is commercial matter for the operator involved. DECC has made no estimate of the contribution of offshore gas industry in the Morecambe Bay area to employment.

Nuclear Power: Germany

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has discussed with his German counterpart the decision of the German Government to phase out nuclear power by 2023. [54884]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has not met with the German State Secretary since the German Government's decision on their future energy mix. I, as the Minister for Energy, did meet with the State Secretary as part of the Energy Council informal meeting held on 2-3 May where we discussed a range of energy issues including nuclear safety. I have also met with the German Environment Minister during a ministerial visit to the Ukraine on the 18-20 April.

Nuclear Safety

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether Ministers made representations to other EU member states on the inclusion of the effect of aircraft collisions with nuclear installations in the stress tests developed by the EU nuclear safety authorities during the debate held at the informal EU Energy Council in Gödöllö, Hungary. [54980]

Charles Hendry: The development of the stress test, and the inclusion of aircraft collisions, was not raised at the informal EU Energy Council meeting in Gödöllö in Hungary, However, it was raised in my bilateral meeting with Commissioner Oettinger. I confirmed the UK commitment to a robust EU wide nuclear safety stress test focused on lessons learned from Fukushima and that the test should not include security measures as this must remain part of our national security arrangements and should therefore be dealt with separately.

Offshore Industry: Safety

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what safeguards have been implemented in the last 12 months to prevent explosions and oil spills arising from deepwater drilling in UK waters; and what changes there have been to his risk assessment of deepwater drilling following the implementation of such measures. [54416]

Charles Hendry: Safety of oil and gas operations is a matter for the Health and Safety Executive.

Environmental regulation of offshore oil and gas operations is however a matter for the Department of Energy and Climate Change. In the light of an initial rapid review conducted after the Macondo accident in the Gulf of Mexico, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), decided that it would be prudent to increase the number of environmental inspections of drilling rigs operating in the deep water area West of Shetland. He announced in a DECC press notice on 8 June 2010 that recruitment of additional offshore environmental inspectors had been put in hand. In a statement given to the House on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 630, he announced his decision to double the Department's inspections of drilling rigs, and indicated his intention to conduct a further review of UK regulatory procedures once a detailed analysis of the factors that had caused the accident was available. Licensees are already required to demonstrate, in seeking consent for new drilling operations, that there will be effective co-ordination between all companies involved in the drilling operations. In respect of new consents for deepwater drilling, we also require rigorous testing of the effectiveness of the co-ordination arrangements, including additional inspections and exercises as necessary.

In December, the Department wrote to all North sea operators updating its existing guidance on environmental submissions as regards the content of oil pollution emergency plans, the preparation of environmental impact assessments, and applications for chemicals permits.

Following the publication in January of the report of the US National Commission into the accident, the further review of UK regulatory procedures foreshadowed by the Secretary of State on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 630, has been commenced. It will report later this year.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of recent charges to feed-in tariffs on levels of private sector expenditure on renewable energy. [54280]

Gregory Barker: DECC does not make specific assessments of private sector expenditure on renewable energy.

There have been no recent changes to feed-in tariffs (FITs) other than the uplifting of tariffs on 1 April 2011 to take account of inflation, as measured by the retail prices index (RPI). This is to ensure that FITs support remains constant in real terms, and so will not affect levels of uptake under the FITs scheme, and hence private sector expenditure on renewable energy will not be affected.

On 6 May 2011 a consultation closed which sought views on proposals to reduce FITs for solar photovoltaic installations of more than 50kW and increase tariffs for anaerobic digestion plants of less than 500kW. We are considering all views expressed as part of the consultation in finalising the policy and will confirm the outcome in due course.

Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the potential for *(a)* growth and *(b)* employment in the solar power sector. [52955]

Gregory Barker: The production capacity of the UK solar photovoltaic market has expanded significantly as a result of the introduction of the feed-in-tariff. Opportunities in the supply chain have also increased.

The solar PV industry reports that jobs in the sector have increased from 3,000 in January 2010 to over 10,000 in January 2011 and are predicted to continue to rise significantly in the years ahead.

The feed-in-tariff scheme (FITs) supports a wide range of domestic and community scale renewables, including solar PV.

For more information on the shift to a low carbon economy and business growth opportunities see:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/business-sectors/low-carbon-business-opportunities/market-intelligence

Warm Front Scheme

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average time taken to repair a domestic boiler under the Warm Front Programme was *(a)* in general and *(b)* in cases where customers had chronic health problems in the latest period for which figures are available. [54286]

Gregory Barker: The average time taken to repair a domestic boiler under the Warm Front Scheme in 2010-11 was 50.4 working days. The average time taken to repair a domestic boiler for those customers in receipt of disability living allowance was 49.7 working days.

Wind Power: Finance

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on his decision to make available funding for offshore wind manufacturing under the Grant for Business Investment scheme to port sites in England only. [54222]

Charles Hendry: Funding made available to support offshore wind manufacturing at port locations is industrial support and a devolved matter. Support in England will be provided under the GBI scheme in Assisted Areas. Ensuring that the UK benefits from the expansion of offshore wind is a priority for the Government. I continue to have discussions with stakeholders, including on the ways of developing the offshore wind supply chain.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which port sites in England have received funding for offshore wind manufacturing under the Grant for Business Investment scheme. [54223]

Charles Hendry: Bids for support under this scheme are made on a confidential basis. Under the Grant for Business Investment scheme, information on grant offers for sums greater than £75,000 is normally published following the payment of the first instalment of the grant, including the name and location of the recipient of the grant and the size of the grant offered.

The scheme is not open to port-only applications. Our objective for this funding is to support the development of offshore wind manufacturing capacity, which will need to be at coastal locations. We therefore expect all applications to involve large scale manufacturing proposals and to be led either by a manufacturer, or to be jointly led by a port/landowner and a manufacturer.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Politics and Government

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the massacre of three people in Putumayo department Colombia on 11 February 2011; and whether his Department has made representations to the Colombian Government on this matter. [54125]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Bogota has not received any reports on this case. We are aware that the Colombian Government are investigating the killing of five people in the municipality of San Miguel, in the Department of Putumayo on 11 February 2011.

Members of an unidentified armed group entered the farm and killed four adults and a child. Colombia's Ombudsman has denounced the killing.

We have not made representations to the Colombian Government but our embassy in Bogota will continue to monitor the investigation and raise it with the Colombian Government should it prove necessary.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of allegations of collaboration between the Jose Hilario Lopez Battalion of the Colombian Army and paramilitary organisations in Cauca department, Colombia. [54126]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports that on 19 July 2010, soldiers from the seventh General Jose Hilario Lopez Battalion in the Corinto municipality detained two young men in the village of Palo Negro. The soldiers are alleged to have threatened the two men and told them that they were working with the paramilitary group known as the 'Black Eagles'.

It is our understanding that this has been reported to the authorities and a disciplinary investigation has been launched by the Provincial Attorney of Santander de Quilichao, Cauca.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made representations to the Colombian authorities on due process in the case of David Rabelo. [54127]

Alistair Burt: We continue to underline to the Colombian authorities that all those charged with crimes should have their legal rights fully respected, including to a fair and efficient trial. This includes Mr Ravelo's case, which our Ambassador to Colombia last raised with the Head of the Vice President's Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Unit in November,

We are in regular contact with the human rights organisations working on Mr Ravelo's case and understand that the preliminary hearing of his trial will take place next month. While the UK cannot interfere in Colombia's judicial process, we will continue to monitor Mr Ravelo's case and raise any concerns regarding due process with the Colombian authorities.

Ministers' Private Offices

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from ethnic minorities work in the private offices of Ministers in his Department. [53994]

Mr Bellingham: This information is not released for reasons of confidentiality and to avoid the possibility of revealing information about individual staff. However, the staffing of private offices, in terms of the proportion of officials from ethnic minorities, is broadly consistent with the rest of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Departmental Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many first class rail journeys were undertaken by staff in his Department between April 2010 and April 2011; and what the total cost was of such journeys. [53161]

Mr Bellingham: In 2010-11, 99.1% of all railway journeys made in the UK by staff were in standard class. A total of 2,620 journeys were made, of which 24 were in first class at a cost of £1,939. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep a central record of railway journeys undertaken globally by its staff.

Employment Agencies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* recruitment agency fees, *(b)* outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and *(c)* staff training in the last year for which figures are available. [51395]

Mr Lidington: The information requested is as follows.

(a) In the financial year 2010-11, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £286,879 on recruitment agency fees. This represents a 75% decrease over the last two years due to rigorous tendering processes for every recruitment campaign. The FCO uses recruitment agencies to attract the widest possible range of talented applicants. For specialist campaigns, agencies are better placed to target applicants with the most relevant skills within that sector. The use of agencies has proven to be more cost-effective than using in-house recruitment resources for those aspects of campaigns, and is common practice throughout Government Departments.

The FCO is fully compliant with the Government-wide recruitment freeze and is only recruiting in exceptional circumstances, as set out in the policy.

(b) In financial year 2010-11, the FCO spent a total of £26,325 on outplacement agency fees for displaced and redundant staff. This includes outplacement support and the running of Career Transition Workshops.

(c) The Human Resources Directorate of the FCO spent approximately £8.66 million on training in financial year 2010-11, including approximately £3 million on language training. A number of other Directorates within the FCO run specialist training courses for their areas of activity. Expenditure on this type of training is not centrally recorded.

Human Rights

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the 20 states his Department records as having the worst record on human rights. [54854]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Command Paper on Human Rights and Democracy published in March covers 26 countries of concern. These are among the countries where we have the most serious, wide-ranging human rights concerns and where the UK Government are engaged in promoting and protecting human rights. They are (in alphabetical order): Afghanistan, Belarus, Burma, Chad, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Libya, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

However, the FCO does not maintain a human rights league table. We have concerns about many countries not included in the Command Paper list. All our embassies and high commissions monitor and raise human rights issues in their host countries. It is important to focus FCO resources where we can make a difference, while continuing to speak out about human rights violations wherever they occur.

Libya: Diplomatic Relations

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent information he has received on the protection of foreign diplomatic missions by the Libyan authorities. [54526]

Alistair Burt: A mob looted, attacked and burned the British embassy and ambassador's residence in Tripoli on 30 April 2011. The diplomatic premises of France, Italy, Qatar, the US and the UN also suffered damage. The Vienna convention requires the Qadhafi regime to protect diplomatic missions in Tripoli. By failing to do so, that regime has once again breached its international responsibilities and obligations. In response the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has expelled the Libyan ambassador to the UK. The attacks against diplomatic missions will not weaken our resolve to protect the civilian population in Libya.

Malaysia: Human Rights

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Malaysia concerning Mr Charles Hector Fernandez; what his most recent assessment is of the situation of human rights campaigners in Malaysia; and if he will make a statement. [54621]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The EU Delegation in Kuala Lumpur has met with Charles Hector Fernandez and has been following his trial on behalf of member states. The Malaysian Government is not a party to the case, which is a civil matter between Mr Fernandez and a Japanese company. The UK has therefore made no representations to the Malaysian Government, but our high commission in Kuala Lumpur continues to monitor the trial.

Malaysia has a national framework for the protection of human rights enshrined in its constitution. However, we remain concerned that human rights defenders who challenge the Government can suffer harassment and arrest. EU missions in Kuala Lumpur met local human rights defenders in March 2010 and maintain a dialogue with them. Our high commission also maintains contacts with human rights defenders and regularly speaks to them and to the national human rights commission (SUHAKAM) on a range of human rights issues.

Maldives: Tourism

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to update advice offered to UK citizens *(a)* in and *(b)* planning to travel to the Maldives following recent events in that country. [54719]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On 4 May 2011, following reports of a large demonstration planned for 6 May 2011 in the capital, Male, we amended our travel advice. We are not advising against travel to Maldives. We encourage members of the public to check our full travel advice at:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel

where our advice on Maldives makes clear that British nationals should avoid demonstrations and beware of spontaneous gatherings as these have turned violent in the past.

North Africa: Tourism

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* discussions he has had with (i) Ministerial colleagues and (ii) others and *(b)* precautions have been taken in respect of UK tourists visiting North Africa following the bomb attack in Morocco on 28 April 2011. [54527]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) has discussed the bomb attack in Morocco with Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and the Prime Minister's Office and other Ministers are aware. I have spoken to the Moroccan ambassador to London and the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Taieb Fassi-Fihri, to express our condolences and confirm our support for Morocco during this difficult time. Our ambassador to Morocco has been in regular contact with Moroccan Ministers and officials since the attack and has so far visited Marrakech twice to keep contact with the local authorities and oversee the consular operation.

Immediately following the explosion on 28 April, we deployed staff to Marrakech. Consular staff from Marrakech were at the scene within hours of the attack, and later that day our Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer based at the embassy in Rabat arrived in Marrakech to assist the consular process and work with the Moroccan authorities. Within 24 hours of the attack a Rapid Deployment Team from London arrived in Marrakech to assist our consular staff on the ground in accounting for the safety of British nationals. We also set up a helpline for callers worried about friends or family. We have updated our travel advice for Morocco in line with the latest information on possible threats and will continue to keep to keep it under close review.

North Korea: Human Rights

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the existence of forced labour camps in North Korea; and whether his Department plans to raise the issue *(a)* at the UN and *(b)* with other international bodies. [54855]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As Amnesty International's report of 4 May 2011 illustrates, North Korea imprisons large numbers of people for their political and religious beliefs. Through our embassy in Pyongyang, and in meetings with North Korean officials in London, we regularly raise human rights and also press the North Korean regime to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in North Korea access to their country. We called for this most recently in the UN Human Rights Council Resolution on the human rights situation in North Korea in Geneva in March 2011. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2010 Human Rights Report, which was presented to Parliament in March 2011, also raised our concern about these camps. We will continue to press them on our concerns and urge them to allow independent verification of the situation.

Robert Mugabe

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his EU counterparts on the lifting of the travel ban on President Mugabe to enable him to travel to a religious ceremony in Rome on 1 May 2011. [54525]

Mr Bellingham: Although President Mugabe is subject to an EU travel ban, the Vatican is not a member of the EU and conducts its own foreign policy. Italy is bound by the Lateran treaty not to inhibit the passage of official visitors to the Vatican. Our ambassador in Harare did however discuss this issue with his Italian colleague and other counterparts to ensure consistency with the EU Common Position.

The visa issued by Italy to President Mugabe was time-limited for the event in question and valid only for Italian territory.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Sri Lankan counterparts on the release of displaced persons from camps in Sri Lanka. [54389]

Alistair Burt: During my visit to Sri Lanka in February, I talked to resettled communities about their efforts to recover from the war and rebuild their lives. The number of people in the camps has reduced from about 300,000 to about 17,000. I understand that most of those remaining will leave the camps during this year and return to their homes. I raised our concerns for the welfare of displaced people during my talks with the Government at the time, and again when I met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 31 March 2011, and expressed our desire for improved humanitarian access to the north and the need to address ongoing challenges of resettlement.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the UN Panel of Experts' report on accountability in Sri Lanka. *[54512]*

Alistair Burt: The report sets out the importance of a credible and independent investigation into allegations of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by both sides during the conflict, as we have consistently urged the Government of Sri Lanka to do. We are studying the recommendations and full report carefully and urge the Sri Lankan Government to use it as a means to promote national reconciliation.

Tax Avoidance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he has had any recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in St Helena and the St Helena Dependencies (Ascension and Tristan da Cunha); [54098]

(2) whether he has had any recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands; [54099]

(3) whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in the British Antarctic Territory; [54106]

(4) whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in the British Indian Ocean Territory; [54107]

(5) whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands. [54108]

Mr Bellingham: No. The above mentioned Territories are not considered offshore financial centres and are not seen by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development or other international organisations as Territories posing an offshore tax evasion risk.

Taxation is a devolved competence in the UK Overseas Territories under the terms of their constitutions and UK tax legislation does not apply. The UK's Overseas Territories which are considered offshore financial centres have made a commitment to comply with international standards on transparency and exchange of information on tax matters.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had any recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on offshore UK tax avoidance in Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [54100]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has had no discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer about offshore UK tax avoidance in the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), as the Sovereign Base Areas are military bases on the island of Cyprus and are administered by the Ministry of Defence.

United Arab Emirates: Gulf Co-operation Council

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* police officers that the United Arab Emirates contributed to the Gulf Co-operation Council force sent to Bahrain in March 2011. [54208]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* On 14 March 2011 Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) forces were deployed to Bahrain in response to a Bahraini request for assistance under the GCC Peninsula Shield agreement. This included a military contingent from United Arab Emirates (UAE) but confirmed figures for the exact number of UAE personnel are not available.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* military and *(b)* other equipment that the United Arab Emirates contributed to the Gulf Co-operation Council force sent to Bahrain in March 2011. [54209]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* We have seen no evidence that the United Arab Emirates have contributed anything other than a military contingent and their personal equipment.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Sales: Children

20. **Mark Pawsey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislative proposals she plans to bring forward for further restrictions on the sale of alcohol to children. [54337]

Mrs May: The Government do not tolerate the sale of alcohol to children. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will double the maximum fine from £10,000 to £20,000, delivering on a coalition agreement commitment, and extend the minimum period of voluntary closure that can be given for persistent under-age sales. We are also committed to working with the Sentencing Council and the Crown Prosecution Service, in order to prosecute those found guilty of persistent under-age selling and to use the full range of sentences available.

Violence against Women and Girls

21. **David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the Government's action plan for ending violence against women and girls; and if she will make a statement. [54338]

Lynne Featherstone: The Action Plan on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls was published on 8 March this year, and we have already delivered in several areas. We have provided over £28 million of stable Home Office funding until 2015 for local specialist services, £900,000 has been made available until 2015 to support national helplines and we have implemented legislation for multi-agency Domestic Homicide Reviews after every domestic murder.

Immigration

23. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to tackle the abuse of the immigration system through sham marriages. [54340]

Damian Green: We have taken a number of steps to tackle this problem, targeted enforcement action led to 155 arrests last year and the dismantling of several organised facilitation groups. We are working closely with registrars and clergy, and have agreed procedural changes with the Church of England to allow greater scrutiny. We will publish a wider consultation on family migration later this year to strengthen further our approach.

Student Visas

24. **Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely effect of her policy on student visas on the number of visas issued in the 12 months following its implementation. [54341]

Damian Green: The policy will be fully implemented by the end of 2012. From then on the estimated reduction is of the order of 70,000 main applicant visas a year, plus a further reduction in student dependents of about 20,000.

Police: Rule A19

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were subject to the A19 regulation in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [54339]

Nick Herbert: Chief officers, working with police authorities, are responsible for managing the resources and staff available to them to ensure effective policing. They are best placed to consider operational decisions including the impact of using their powers under Regulation A19.

Alcoholic Drinks: Arrests

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues to police forces on the treatment and care of those arrested for being drunk and incapable. [54258]

James Brokenshire: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and Home Office (2006) Guidance on the Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody, provides the police service with non-statutory guidance on the treatment and care of arrested persons and includes guidance on the management of individuals who are, or may be drunk and incapable.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is currently reviewing this guidance and a revised version is expected to be available later this year.

Assets

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much was recovered under the Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003 *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police authority area in each year since its coming into force; and how much is in the process of being recovered; [53495]

(2) what the monetary value was of assets *(a)* seized and *(b)* frozen under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each police force area in the East of England in each year since 2002. [53459]

James Brokenshire: The Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003 is not UK legislation.

For the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, the table, which will be placed in the House Libraries, gives a break down of the value of orders and money recovered by every police force giving details of confiscation orders following a criminal conviction and cash forfeitures in civil proceedings. The value of assets frozen is not held centrally and a restraint order can be made against all a defendant's property without the need to calculate the monetary worth of those assets.

CCTV

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues on the *(a)* quality and *(b)* standard of CCTV recordings made by (i) police forces and (ii) her Department and its agencies. [53971]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has issued no specific guidance to the police or other agencies of the Department on the quality and standard of CCTV recordings. A public consultation, launched on 1 March, on the development of a code of practice on surveillance cameras, seeks views on proposals to develop core standards, including in relation to CCTV images.

Crime

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* shotguns, *(b)* rifles and *(c)* handguns were stolen in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each year since 2007-08; and how many have been subsequently recovered and returned to the owner. [53406]

James Brokenshire: Data on 'misappropriated' firearms (i.e. stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly) are collected from all police forces in England and Wales and were published on 20 January 2011 in table 2.12 of "Homicides, Firearms Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10" at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0111/hosb0111?view=Binary

Data for England and Wales for 2007-08 to 2009-10 are provided in table A. These data are broken down by police force area in table B.

Information on whether or not stolen firearms are subsequently recovered and returned to the owner is not collected centrally.

Table A: Firearms misappropriated[1] in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2007-08 to 2009-10

Weapon type	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Shotguns	289	682	509
Rifles	199	242	183
Handguns	80	91	96

Table B: Firearms misappropriated[1] in crimes recorded by the police, England and Wales, by police force area, 2007-08 to 2009-10

	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
Force	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*
Avon and Somerset	6	5	3	17	8	1	18	1	1
Bedfordshire	3	0	0	12	0	0	21	4	1
Cambridgeshire	10	8	0	27	5	0	28	4	0
Cheshire	13	8	2	6	2	1	18	3	1
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	6	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Derbyshire	3	6	4	14	5	7	14	1	6
Devon and Cornwall	2	1	2	8	4	5	5	3	2
Dorset	5	3	2	10	6	2	7	7	0
Durham	2	0	0	9	0	0	3	5	3
Essex	6	3	2	17	0	0	30	8	2
Gloucestershire	2	2	0	10	0	1	2	3	0
Greater Manchester	1	1	6	5	4	1	20	7	1
Hampshire	9	7	0	13	0	0	5	0	0
Hertfordshire	7	2	4	26	2	1	21	4	1
Humberside	2	9	5	4	15	7	1	10	2
Kent	6	2	2	26	0	6	29	2	2
Lancashire	0	4	0	12	5	0	6	6	0
Leicestershire	7	1	0	0	1	4	8	0	0
Lincolnshire	17	3	0	15	10	1	4	9	5
City of London	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	3	4	1	3	4	3	5	7	2
Metropolitan Police	19	0	1	37	11	4	12	3	35
Norfolk	20	2	0	7	1	0	16	1	0
Northamptonshire	3	2	0	17	3	6	7	2	0
Northumbria	9	7	2	7	3	0	3	4	0
North Yorkshire	3	2	0	12	5	0	2	0	2
Nottinghamshire	22	8	0	20	1	2	2	1	0
South Yorkshire	5	4	1	21	2	2	8	4	5
Staffordshire	13	31	19	4	1	2	2	0	1
Suffolk	2	4	1	6	11	2	13	31	2
Surrey	4	0	0	5	0	0	21	0	0
Sussex	14	3	7	17	7	2	8	1	4
Thames Valley	15	35	5	5	35	12	36	9	5
Warwickshire	17	0	1	17	5	1	12	1	0
West Mercia	9	11	1	19	24	7	16	11	2
West Midlands	2	0	2	2	6	3	10	13	3
West Yorkshire	8	3	0	19	12	6	10	5	6
Wiltshire	4	3	1	4	1	0	1	1	1
Dyfed-Powys	1	0	0	1	1	0	6	1	0
Gwent	4	1	0	227	35	0	65	10	0
North Wales	3	12	5	0	6	2	10	0	1
South Wales	2	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	0
Total	289	199	80	682	242	91	509	183	96

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[1] Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations into organised crime organisations have been undertaken by *(a)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and *(b)* other police organisations in each of the last five years. [53491]

James Brokenshire: The Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) operational activity, which is aligned to the UK Organised Crime Control Strategy, consists of operations against individuals and organised crime groups, thematic projects, and single-strand enquiries.

SOCA had in progress as of 31 March in each year the following number of operations:

	Number of operations
2010-11	478
2009-10	467
2008-09	401
2007-08	313
2006-07	283

Information on investigations undertaken by other police organisations is not held centrally.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many robberies there were in each police force area in each year since 2009. [53498]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is given in the following table.

Offences of robbery recorded by the police

	Number of offences		
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	1,906	2,040	1,777
Bedfordshire	1,210	1,014	714
British Transport Police	1,042	870	681
Cambridgeshire	624	830	702
Cheshire	572	581	429
Cleveland	499	404	286
Cumbria	52	50	45
Derbyshire	796	804	840
Devon and Cornwall	540	511	427
Dorset	243	262	218
Durham	181	170	162
Dyfed-Powys	46	35	36
Essex	1,310	1,305	1,096
Gloucestershire	298	259	207
Greater Manchester	7,433	7,065	5,966
Gwent	252	220	249
Hampshire	1,066	1,154	1,080
Hertfordshire	758	759	645
Humberside	1,003	773	613
Kent	1,151	1,015	855
Lancashire	966	865	690
Leicestershire	1,059	1,210	1,037
Lincolnshire	166	198	212
London, City of	54	43	43
Merseyside	1,671	1,686	1,627
Metropolitan Police	37,045	32,555	33,463
Norfolk	286	286	305
Northamptonshire	876	898	774
Northumbria	800	732	572
North Wales	134	151	121
North Yorkshire	248	247	202
Nottinghamshire	2,052	2,279	1,930
South Wales	828	809	605
South Yorkshire	1,283	1,184	1,015
Staffordshire	711	791	703
Suffolk	262	271	247
Surrey	406	415	420
Sussex	899	1,034	936
Thames Valley	2,117	2,368	2,187
Warwickshire	375	334	280
West Mercia	532	562	468
West Midlands	7,664	7,820	7,241
West Yorkshire	2,989	2,936	2,740
Wiltshire	343	339	255
England and Wales	84,748	80,134	75,101

Crimes of Violence

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of each type committed under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 were recorded in each year since 2006; and what proportion of such offences resulted in *(a)* court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* convictions and *(c)* sanction detections. [53440]

James Brokenshire: The information is not available in the form requested.

The tables give the number of offences recorded under the Offences against the Person Act 1861 since 2006-07 that are separately identifiable within police recorded crime statistics. It also gives the number of offences detected by means of a sanction detection. Statistics on court proceedings, including convictions, are a matter for the Ministry of Justice.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and counts offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Offences under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861[1] recorded by the police and detected by means of a sanction detection[2]—2006-07 to 2009-10

	2006-07			*2007-08*		
Offence	*No. of offences*	*No. of sanction detections*	*% detected by means of a sanction detection*	*No. of offences*	*No. of sanction detections*	*% detected by means of a sanction detection*
Abandoning child under two years	23	15	65	19	16	84
Procuring illegal abortion	6	3	50	6	2	33
Concealing an infant death close to birth	4	4	100	8	3	38
Bigamy	61	37	61	74	33	45
Threats to kill	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	2008-09			*2009-10*		
Offence	*No. of offences*	*No. of sanction detections*	*% detected by means of a sanction detection*	*No. of offences*	*No. of sanction detections*	*% detected by means of a sanction detection*
Abandoning child under two years	23	18	78	9	9	100
Procuring illegal abortion	5	2	40	3	1	33
Concealing an infant death close to birth	8	5	63	6	3	50
Bigamy	64	40	63	60	39	65

Offence	2008-09 No. of offences	2008-09 No. of sanction detections	2008-09 % detected by means of a sanction detection	2009-10 No. of offences	2009-10 No. of sanction detections	2009-10 % detected by means of a sanction detection
Threats to kill	9,460	3,105	33	9,566	3,120	33
Inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent	17,166	6,312	37	16,507	6,502	39

n/a = Not available.

[1] Other offences under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 are not separately identifiable within the police recorded crime statistics.

[2] Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Departmental Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many first class rail journeys were undertaken by staff in her Department between April 2010 and April 2011; and what the total cost was of such journeys. [53162]

Damian Green: The information is as follows:

For the Home Office and the UK Border Agency:

During the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 there have been 1,018 recorded instances of first class travel at a total cost of £145,000 within the core Home Office.

During the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 there have been 668 recorded instances of first class travel at a total cost of £53,000 within the UK Border Agency.

In spring 2010 the Permanent Secretary issued instructions to senior managers to reduce all travel by using alternatives such as video and/or telephone conferencing and to avoid first class travel as far as possible.

The Department has since significantly reduced first class travel throughout 2010-11. Policy on all business travel is currently under review.

For Identity and Passport Service (IPS):

During the period 1 August 2010 to 31 March 2011 there have been 14 recorded instances of first class travel at a total cost of £1,377 within the IPS.

The Identity and Passport Service changed travel supplier in August 2010; prior to that date it is not possible to extract the information on first class travel without incurring disproportionate cost.

For Criminal Records Bureau (CRB):

With effect from 1 May 2010 all rail journeys made by CRB staff in relation to CRB business were required to be standard class only. In the month of April 2010, prior to the implementation of this change, 50 first class rail journeys were undertaken by staff within the CRB at a cost of £13,480.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer from the hon. Member for Suffolk Coastal of 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 99W, on the National DNA Database, what estimate she has made of the time required to remove records of unconvicted people from the National DNA Database following the enactment of the relevant legislation. [54655]

James Brokenshire: The Protection of Freedoms Bill, currently before Parliament, makes provision for the removal of DNA profiles for the majority of non-convicted persons from the National DNA Database (NDNAD), with some specific exceptions. Our aim is to remove the vast majority of non-convicted people from the NDNAD as soon as is practicable, following enactment of the relevant provisions.

Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department made an assessment of the effects of drug decriminalisation in Portugal prior to the publication of the 2010 Drugs Strategy. [54146]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* The Home Office keeps sighted on international developments on drug policy. No formal assessment of the effects of drug decriminalisation in Portugal prior to the publication of the 2010 Drugs Strategy was undertaken.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) who will *(a)* lead and *(b)* participate in the annual review of the Government's 2010 Drugs Strategy; and what timescale she has set for the review to be conducted; [54404]

(2) whether the annual review of the 2010 Drugs Strategy will be carried out on a cross-departmental basis. [54145]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* We are still scoping the terms of the annual review. It will be conducted on a cross-Government basis and led by the Home Office. It is likely it will report after the first full 12 months of implementation.

Drugs: Regulation

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* produced and *(b)* evaluated on the legalisation and regulation of controlled substances. [54403]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has not *(a)* produced or *(b)* evaluated any research on the legalisation and regulation of controlled substances.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of foreign students have overstayed since the Certificate of Acceptance of Studies/General Student Visas system was implemented. [54033]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the information requested. It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of individuals currently in the UK in breach of immigration controls, as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally.

The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the country at a majority of the points of entry to the UK but is not yet fully rolled out. The Government are committed to ensuring that the number of UK ports undertaking exit checks is increased to ensure a complete travel history record on all passengers.

Fraud

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of credit card fraud there were in each year since 1997; what estimate her Department has made of the sums lost through such fraud in each such year; and what proportion of such instances resulted in a conviction for an offence of fraud. [53508]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office recorded crime statistics cannot separately identify offences specifically relating to credit card fraud. Such offences are encompassed in a larger offence classification of "Fraud by False Representation involving Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts". Since April 2010, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has also been recording such offences and these data will be provided to the Home Office for inclusion in the annual crime statistics.

Figures on plastic card fraud provided by the UK Cards Association are included on page 95 of "Crime in England and Wales 2009/10". A copy of this publication can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1210/hosb1210?view=Binary

Sex Offenders: Registration

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to *(a)* consult on proposals to strengthen the management of sex offenders and *(b)* require such offenders to inform the authorities of an intention to travel abroad for a period of less than three days. [53581]

Lynne Featherstone: In the statement given by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to the House on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 959-60, she indicated that we would be consulting on proposals to further strengthen the management of sex offenders.

We will shortly launch a targeted consultation seeking views on four key proposals to strengthen the notification requirements for registered sex offenders, including introducing a requirement for registered sex offenders to notify all foreign travel (currently only travel of three days or more is notified to the police).

The consultation will run for an eight-week period and we anticipate that the necessary legislative changes will be in force by the end of the year, subject to parliamentary business.

Sexual Offences

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for sexual offences were made in the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [54702]

James Brokenshire: The information requested on arrests covering the period from 2005-06 to 2009-10 (latest available) is provided in the table.

Number of arrests for sexual offences in West Midlands police force area, 2005-06 to 2009-10

Financial year	*Number of arrests*
2005-06	932
2006-07	745
2007-08	703
2008-09	774
2009-10	755

Young People: Films

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded in respect of cinemas allowing underage children into age-rated films in each year since 1997; how many police cautions were issued; and what the average fine levied was. [53447]

James Brokenshire: Information on the number of offences recorded is not available centrally. Statistics on police cautions and disposals are a matter for the Ministry of Justice.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he expects the results of the review into funding for the mobility needs of people in residential care to be published; [52907]

(2) whether people living in state-funded residential care will be eligible to receive payment of the mobility component of the personal independence payment; [52908]

(3) what plans he has to engage disabled people, groups and organisations in his Department's review of funding for the mobility needs of people in residential care; and if he will make a statement; [52926]

(4) what the terms of reference are for the review into funding for the mobility needs of people in residential care. [52927]

Maria Miller: The Government received a great deal of feedback on the proposal, announced in the spending review, to withdraw the mobility component of disability living allowance (DLA) from people in residential care homes after 28 days.

In response to the concerns raised by individuals and organisations, we announced that we would not remove the DLA mobility component from people in residential care from October 2012 and that we would review the existing evidence and gather more to enable us to determine the extent to which there are overlaps in provision for mobility needs of people in residential care homes.

The work is being carried out by civil servants in the Department for Work and Pensions and has included, among other things, discussions with individuals and groups of disabled people as well as with organisations which represent them. When the work is complete we will make a final decision on the way forward. We have no plans to publish the findings of this work.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the change in the *(a)* number of claimants and *(b)* level of public expenditure if the number of new disability living allowance claimants were reduced by 20 per cent. each year but the benefit was unchanged in each of the next five financial years. [53000]

Maria Miller: If DLA policy were to remain unchanged for the next five years, then a reduction in inflows by 20% is estimated to have the following effect.

Estimated reduction in DLA expenditure

Reduction in inflows by 20%	*Case load (thousand)*	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2011-12	30	100
2012-13	70	290
2013-14	120	480
2014-15	160	660
2015-16	200	840

Notes:
1. Estimates are based on the Budget 2011 Forecasts, published at the following website:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure
2. These estimates assume that no changes to DLA policy occur. However, DLA reform is planned to begin in 2013-14 with the introduction of the personal independence payment.
3. The estimates exclude any consequential effects on other benefits.
4. Expenditure is given in nominal terms.
5. Expenditure is rounded to the nearest £10 million.
6. Case load is rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of medical assessments for *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* industrial injuries disablement benefit and *(d)* incapacity benefit have been subject to appeal in each of the last five years; and what the cost was of administering such appeals in each such year. [53409]

Maria Miller: We are unable to say what proportion of medical assessments for disability living allowance (DLA), attendance allowance (AA), industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB) and incapacity benefit (IB) has been subject to appeal in each of the last five years. This is because appeals can be made against all decisions and the management information systems of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) and Jobcentre Plus (JCP) do not go to the level of detail that would identify those appeals specifically related to medical assessments.

Consequently, we are not able to provide the cost of administering such appeals.

However, we are able to provide in the following table the administration costs borne by DWP for appeals.

				£000
	DLA	*AA*	*IIDB*	*IB*
2010-11	6,546	567	—	—
2009-10	6,598	709	606	5,046
2008-09	—	—	601	6,706

Notes:
1. Pension, Disability and Carers Service and Jobcentre Plus, both agencies of the Department for Work and Pensions, are only responsible for an element of the appeal process against medical assessment decisions relating to DLA, AA, IIDB and IB. The majority of the process is handled by the Tribunal Service, part of the Ministry of Justice.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.
3. The figures relate to the direct staff cost to Jobcentre Plus and PDCS of administering appeals.
4. Appeals costs for DLA/AA are not available prior to 2009-10.
5. Prior to 2008-09 appeals costs for Jobcentre Plus were not recorded by benefit type.
6. 2010-11 appeals costs for Jobcentre Plus are not included here as the annual report and accounts for 2010-11 are not yet audited and publicly available.
Sources:
Jobcentre Plus ABM Models 2006 to 2010-11. The data is correct as at 28 April 2011.
PDCS: Department for Work and Pensions activity-based management system. The data are correct as at 3 May 2011.

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of disability living allowance in Scotland who are diagnosed with autism; and what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on claimants diagnosed with autism of proposed changes to disability living allowance. [53703]

Maria Miller: The information is not available as new, more detailed details on the disabling condition were only added in 2008 and have not been applied retrospectively to the entire case load. Therefore, it is not yet possible to produce an estimate of the total number of people claiming disability living allowance with a main disabling condition of "autism". Such information as is available is in the following table.

Number of people in receipt of disability living allowance where the main disabling condition is learning difficulties—August 2010

	All	*Scotland*
All	3,176,200	346,500
Learning difficulties	367,400	35,200

Notes:
1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Case load totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude those with, entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Learning difficulties includes the following disabling conditions: 'F86'—'Down's Syndrome', 'F87'—'Fragile X syndrome', 'F90'—'Other Learning Disability', 'F91'—'Autism', 'F92'—'Asperger Syndrome', 'F94'—'Retts Disorder'.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

From 2013 we will introduce a new benefit, personal independence payment, to replace disability living allowance for people of working age. Key to personal independence payment will be a more objective assessment of individual need. We have been developing our proposals for the new assessment in collaboration with a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability.

The assessment will take account of needs arising from physical, sensory, mental, intellectual and cognitive impairments. We believe it is right for the assessment to look at disabled people as individuals and not just label them by their health condition or impairment. That is why it is being designed to consider an individual's personal circumstances and the support they need, rather than basing eligibility on any medical condition. I can assure the hon. Member that we want to get this right and before finalising the assessment criteria we will be testing them and assessing their likely impact.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate *(a)* the change in the number of claimants and *(b)* change on the level of expenditure if the number of new disability living allowance claimants each year were reduced by (i) 10 per cent., (ii) 15 per cent., (iii) 20 per cent. and (iv) 25 per cent., but the benefit was otherwise unchanged in each of the next five financial years. [54406]

Maria Miller: If DLA policy were to remain unchanged for the next five years then a reduction in inflows by: (a) 10%; (b) 15%; (c) 20%, and; (d) 25%, are estimated to have the following effects:

Estimated reduction in DLA expenditure

		2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Reduction in inflows by 10%	Caseload (thousand)	10	40	60	80	100
	Expenditure (£ million)	50	150	240	330	420
Reduction in inflows by 15%	Caseload (thousand)	20	60	90	120	150
	Expenditure (£ million)	80	220	360	490	630
Reduction in inflows by 20%	Caseload (thousand)	30	70	120	160	200
	Expenditure (£ million)	100	290	480	660	840
Reduction in inflows by 25%	Caseload (thousand)	30	90	150	200	250
	Expenditure (£ million)	130	370	600	820	1,040

Notes:
1. Estimates are based on the Budget 2011 Forecasts, published at the following website: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure
2. These estimates assume that no changes to DLA policy occur. However, DLA reform is planned to begin in 2013-14 with the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment.
3. The estimates exclude any consequential effects on other benefits.
4. Expenditure is given in nominal terms.
5. Expenditure is rounded to the nearest £10 million.
6. Caseload is rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of new claimants for personal independence payments of working age that will be assessed each week in *(a)* 2013-14, *(b)* 2014-15 and *(c)* 2015-16; [54491]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of existing claimants of working age disability living allowance who will be reassessed for personal independence payments in each week of *(a)* 2013-14, *(b)* 2014-15 and *(c)* 2015-16. [54643]

Maria Miller: We are currently considering the delivery model for personal independence payment, including how to migrate those of working age who are in receipt of disability living allowance. No decisions have yet been taken on the detail of its operation and how many people will be required to go through the new assessment in each of its first three years of operation.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Wimbledon and *(b)* the London borough of Merton claim disability benefit. [54494]

Maria Miller: Information on the current number of recipients of DLA which is contained in the following table:

Disability living allowance recipients: August 2010

	Number
Wimbledon parliamentary constituency	2,050
Merton local authority	6,040
Total	3,176,200

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. DLA figures are published at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% data.

Information on the number of claims made for disability living allowance is not available by parliamentary constituency or local authority. The information is not routinely collated as there is no requirement to do so.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely additional annual cost to the Exchequer of assessing only new claimants for personal independence payments with effect from *(a)* 1 April 2012, *(b)* 1 October 2012, *(c)* 1 April 2013, *(d)* 1 October 2013, *(e)* 1 April 2014 and *(f)* 1 October 2014 in respect of each of the subsequent five financial years. [54697]

Maria Miller: The annual cost of administering personal independence payment will depend on the detail of how the benefit is delivered and the design of the new assessment. Costs will be refined as further detail on the reform is developed. Approximate high level delivery costs (both one off investment and DEL) have been estimated to be £675 million (net present value) over the period 2011-12 to 2015-16. These include provision for making changes to the IT systems, training DWP staff, the administrative effort required to manage the transition of existing recipients to the new system and the cost of trained independent assessors undertaking the new assessment.

We are unable to estimate the cost of administering the personal independence payment for new claimants as the information is not available. It will depend on the detail of how it is delivered and the design of the new objective assessment. The result of the consultation exercise will help inform this. Costs will be refined as further detail on the reform is developed. The Government will set out further detail at the earliest appropriate point.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely reduction in *(a)* the number of benefit recipients and *(b)* the level of Government expenditure attributable introducing personal independence payments only for new claimants with effect from (i) 1 April 2012, (ii) 1 October 2012, (iii) 1 April 2013, (iv) 1 October 2013, (v) 1 April 2014 and (vi) 1 October 2014 in respect of each of the subsequent five financial years. [54698]

Maria Miller: Support in personal independence payment will be on those who face the greatest challenges in living independent lives. The assessment is being developed and at this stage, therefore, an assessment is not available of the impact changes could have on future recipients or Government expenditure. We are working with disabled people and organisations that represent them on the detailed design and delivery of personal independence payment. The outcomes from this work will be reflected in updates to the impact assessment for this change. We have already announced that personal independence payment will be a non taxable, non means-tested benefit payable to people in or out of work.

Disability Living Allowance: Public Finance

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the weekly cost to the public purse of payments of disability living allowance in Airdrie and Shotts constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [53033]

Maria Miller: In 2009-10, expenditure on disability living allowance in Airdrie and Shotts constituency averaged £600,000 per week[1].

Constituency-level benefit expenditure information is published on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/pc_expenditure.xls

[1] *Source*:

DWP statistical and accounting data.

Disability Living Allowance: Scotland

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the average change in the monetary value of disability living allowance paid to claimants in Airdrie and Shotts constituency as a result of the consumer prices index replacing the retail prices index for the uprating of benefits and tax credits in 2011-12. [53034]

Maria Miller: We believe that the CPI is the most appropriate measure of the general level of prices for benefit and pension uprating. It is the headline measure of inflation in Great Britain, and has a basket of goods and methodology suitable to be used across uprating.

The information requested is in the following table.

Rate of DLA	*2011-12 projected rates uprated by RPI (£)*	*2011-12 actual rates uprated by CPI (£)*
Highest care	73.60	73.60
Middle care	49.25	49.30
Lowest care	19.50	19.55
Higher mobility	51.35	51,40
Lower mobility	19.50	19.55

Note:
Actual 2011-12 rates are calculated by adding CPI (3.1%) to 2010-11 rates. These in turn were 1.5% higher than 2009-10 rates. Under the previous policy, in order to recover the 1.5% advance in 2010/11 (when the RPI figure driving uprating was negative), 2011-12 rates would have been 2009-10 rates plus RPI (4.6%), yielding a slightly lower figure. All calculations are rounded to the nearest 5p.

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of disability living allowance in Airdrie and Shotts constituency will be subject to objective assessment in 2011-12. [53035]

Maria Miller: From 2013 disability living allowance for people of working age will be replaced by personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. We will begin reassessing working-age individuals in receipt of DLA using the new objective assessment for personal independence payment from 2013.

Until 2013, new claims to DLA and changes of current DAL claims will continue to be assessed using the current self-assessment-led process.

In 2010-11 there were around 30,000 face-to-face medical examinations conducted across Great Britain to help determine eligibility for DLA, at new claim and renewal of awards. We are unable to provide an estimate for the number of face-to-face medical assessments expected to take place in Airdrie and Shotts in 2011-12.

Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information Project

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information Project to date; and what estimate has been made of the likely cost of maintaining and administering the system in 2011-12. [54875]

Chris Grayling: The DWP Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) project has encompassed the delivery of all changes required for compliance with European Union (EU) regulation 883/04, which came into effect on 1 May 2010 and continues with the associated implementation of regulation 987/09 for the electronic coordination of social security systems.

For the Department for Work and Pensions this has involved impacting all of the regulations against existing business activities and implementing the appropriate changes to IT systems, processes, procedures, guidance and employee training to meet the requirements of the new regulations.

The cost of delivering these changes to date is approximately £1 million.

The aspect of the regulation which directly relates to the introduction of Electronic Exchange of Social Security data is article 4(2) of regulation 987/09. This work is ongoing and we are awaiting confirmation from suppliers of the costs associated with the development of the proposed new system. Costs are dependant on receiving clarity on the final scope of the IT solution being provided by the central European Union EESSI project. When the final scope and solution is clear, the associated costs for maintaining the DWP system will be determined. The scheduled go-live date for the IT solution, in order to meet the EU regulation date for compliance, is 1 May 2012.

Employment and Support Allowance

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the criteria are for the placement of employment and support allowance claimants in the work-related activity group. [53732]

Chris Grayling: A key factor in determining eligibility for employment and support allowance (ESA) is the work capability assessment (WCA), which is used to determine a claimant's capability for work. It looks at different areas related to physical, mental, cognitive and intellectual functions alongside additional criteria that do not directly measure function (such as terminal illness).

An individual assessed as having limited capability for work will be placed in the WRAG group and will be expected to undertake some work-related activity with a view to moving into employment in the short to medium term.

Individuals with the most severe health conditions or disabilities will be assessed as having limited capability for work and limited capability for work related activity. As result, they will be placed in the support group and will not be expected to undertake work-related activity, although they can do so if they wish. It would not be realistic to expect them to move towards employment in the short-term.

A determination of entitlement to benefit is made by a DWP decision maker, based on advice from a healthcare professional and any other available evidence (such as provided by the individual's GP or specialist).

Employment Schemes: Cancer

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the number of cancer patients who return to work *(a)* within and *(b)* after a year from starting treatment; and if he will make a statement. [46438]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available.

The Department only holds information on people with cancer if they claim a benefit such as employment and support allowance (ESA), and information on the date that treatment started is not collected.

For information, at August 2010 there were 21,530 people claiming ESA where the main condition was recorded as 'Neoplasms' which is the category in which cancer patients would normally be classified. For a full breakdown by condition, please see the detailed medical condition breakdown publication on the ad hoc statistics website:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page =adhoc_analysis

Statistics on the number of people leaving ESA and going into work are not available from administrative data. Claimants leaving employment support allowance are not required to inform the Department of their destinations and hence the information that is collected is incomplete and not robust enough for publication.

For information, a recent survey on ESA ("Employment and Support Allowance: Findings from a face-to-face survey of customers") recorded that around 41% of participants who left ESA before completing assessment, and 13% of participants who left having been assessed as fit for work had then moved into some form of employment. However, this is not broken down by health condition. See sections 5.2.1 and 5.3.1 of the survey report for further details:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep707.pdf

Employment Schemes: Voluntary Organisations

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether contracts for the Work programme contain any provision to encourage successful bidders to sub-contract to not-for-profit entities. [53929]

Chris Grayling: The procurement rules preclude us from favouring any sector or stipulating quotas for particular groups, either for prime bids or within the delivery chain, in respect of Work programme contracts under the Employment Related Support Services Framework. However, throughout the procurement process, The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has encouraged bidders to engage with the voluntary and community sector.

As part of the evaluation, DWP has closely scrutinised each bidder's partnership proposals within their tenders, particularly when considering the supply chain and service requirement criteria, to ensure that the level of community and voluntary sector involvement is commensurate with the needs of Work programme customers.

Across all the bids there were varying levels of input from the voluntary and community sector, numbering well over 300 in total. In addition to these there was also a wide range of SMEs.

Further voluntary and community sector organisations are involved as there are a wide range of ad-hoc/specialist providers to meet the needs of all customers on the programme.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions are contained in Work programme contracts in respect of terms and remuneration for voluntary sector sub-contractors who undertake work on behalf of the successful bidders. [53930]

Chris Grayling: There are no provisions in the Work programme terms and conditions that cover specific terms or remuneration that prime contractors should apply only to voluntary sector sub-contractors. The Work programme contract sets out a number of standard clauses (such as confidentiality agreements, data protection requirements, prevention of corruption etc) which prime contractors are required to include in all sub-contracts.

Prime contractors are likely to seek to mirror the call-off terms and conditions they have signed up to with DWP with their own sub-contractors. Whatever contractual arrangements the prime contractors do propose to have in place should be implemented at their discretion and based on their own commercial decisions.

Where DWP has consented to sub-contracting taking place, the prime contractors must adhere to the Merlin Standard and accreditation process as detailed in the Work programme specification to ensure fair treatment of all subcontractors.

Health: Young People

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the provision of support to children and young people with long-term health conditions. [52680]

Maria Miller: In January, the Prime Minister hosted a meeting with the Minister of State for Children and Families, the hon. Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather), the Minister for Public Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), and myself, to discuss the planned special education needs and disability Green Paper.

I have had discussions with the Minister of State for Children and Families about the best approach to exploring a single assessment process and education, health and social care plans as mentioned in the special education needs and disability Green Paper, and I have also agreed to explore whether the single assessment process might also be used to support claims for disability living allowance and personal independence payment.

Officials from the Office for Disability Issues and the Department for Work and Pensions are in regular contact with their counterparts in the Department for Education as work on the special education needs and disability Green Paper progresses. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of the SEN and D Green Paper consultation and to working with colleagues across Government to ensure disabled young people are appropriately supported to enter and remain in work.

In addition, I have hosted two round tables recently—one with parents of disabled children to discuss the SEN and D Green Paper, which was attended by representatives from the Department for Education; and the other with various representatives from, for example, social services, Mencap, and local authorities where we discussed transition from education to employment for people with learning disabilities. This event was attended by representatives from the Department of Health.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of raising the participation age on the availability of benefits for young people with long-term health conditions. [52681]

Maria Miller: The Department is aware of the changes to the school participation age and will make any necessary changes to the eligibility rules of benefits for young people with health conditions that may be required as a result.

Housing Benefit

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 25 years or under claimed housing benefit in each year for which figures are available since 2005. [53424]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the following table. Information prior to November 2008 is not available.

Housing benefit recipients in Great Britain aged 25 and under, as at the dates shown

	Number
November 2008	383,240
January 2009	397,940
January 2010	476,670
January 2011	488,830

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and January 2011 is the most recent available.
4. Age breakdowns cannot be provided prior to November 2008.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process a claim for *(a)* housing and *(b)* council tax benefit was in each of the last five years. [53471]

Steve Webb: The requested information is in the table.

Average days to process new housing benefit and council tax benefit claims

	Housing benefit	*Council tax benefit*
2006-07	33	33
2007-08	27	26
2008-09	n/a	n/a
2009-10	25	25
2010-11	22	23

Notes:

1. Figures for 2008-09 are not available.
2. 2010-11 figures are a year to date figure based on the first three quarters—quarter 4 data are not published until 27 July 2011.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest day.
4. Average time for processing claims is measured in calendar days across all new claims for which the date of decision falls within the quarter. The time for each claim is measured from the day the claim is received by the local authority to the day a full decision is made on the claim.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 18 to 29, (ii) 30 to 39, (iii) 40 to 49 and (iv) 50 to 59 years claimed incapacity benefit in each of the last seven years for which information is available; and how many males aged 60 to 65 years claimed incapacity benefit in each London borough in each of the last seven years for which information is available. [53413]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Table 1: Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance: by age and gender time series, Great Britain and abroad

	August 2004		*August 2005*		*August 2006*		*August 2007*	
Age group	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
18-29	142,140	183,070	140,070	177,270	138,360	174,000	141,380	175,460
30-39	210,840	287,930	202,790	276,280	196,270	264,580	190,400	255,030
40-49	312,520	350,630	315,010	350,600	317,810	350,920	321,460	351,970
50-59	465,750	486,360	465,770	472,910	463,700	459,160	450,820	437,770

	August 2008		*August 2009*		*August 2010*	
Age group	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
18-29	139,660	173,360	103,700	129,050	83,180	103,120
30-39	183,190	244,360	154,430	203,150	135,600	175,760
40-49	322,370	352,140	289,060	315,900	263,650	290,210
50-59	442,080	425,250	403,940	380,360	374,600	348,800

Table 2: Employment and support allowance: by age and gender time series, Great Britain and abroad

	August 2009		*August 2010*	
Age group	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
18-29	36,530	53,230	53,690	73,780
30-39	30,240	43,890	47,390	64,380
40-49	45,940	49,630	74,090	75,610
50-59	41,550	49,240	66,580	74,580

Table 3: Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance: Men aged 60 to 65, London local authorities time series

				August			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
City of London	20	20	20	30	20	20	20
Barking and Dagenham	780	740	750	700	720	670	670
Barnet	880	840	870	880	870	850	790
Bexley	740	740	720	740	750	670	610
Brent	1,150	1,130	1,060	1,020	990	970	890
Bromley	790	820	860	870	810	720	690
Camden	820	790	790	760	790	760	750
Croydon	1,010	980	980	980	980	920	880
Ealing	1,260	1,190	1,150	1,140	1,060	1,050	1,000
Enfield	1,120	1,090	1,030	1,030	1,010	950	900
Greenwich	900	890	850	880	860	800	750
Hackney	1,040	1,010	970	920	920	860	840
Hammersmith and Fulham	620	600	590	590	580	570	580
Haringey	930	880	860	830	810	790	770
Harrow	670	650	620	600	580	510	480
Havering	890	840	850	870	840	740	700
Hillingdon	800	790	790	770	760	700	680
Hounslow	860	810	780	730	760	730	710
Islington	960	880	830	810	800	750	750
Kensington and Chelsea	480	460	460	430	440	400	420
Kingston upon Thames	350	340	340	330	320	310	300
Lambeth	1,040	990	970	920	880	810	790
Lewisham	940	920	890	830	840	830	790
Merton	520	500	510	480	490	460	440
Newham	1,190	1,100	1,060	1,020	970	900	830
Redbridge	920	870	870	870	820	770	710
Richmond upon Thames	360	340	350	370	370	330	310
Southwark	1,030	1,020	1,000	960	940	900	890
Sutton	490	460	480	450	470	440	410
Tower Hamlets	970	860	810	780	760	730	720
Waltham Forest	950	910	880	870	840	760	700
Wandsworth	840	810	770	770	760	750	720

Table 3: Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance: Men aged 60 to 65, London local authorities time series

	August						
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
City of Westminster	760	700	670	650	630	610	640

Table 4: Employment and support allowance: Men aged 60 to 65, London local authorities time series

	August 2009	*August 2010*
City of London	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	30	50
Barnet	40	80
Bexley	60	80
Brent	60	90
Bromley	40	70
Camden	20	30
Croydon	60	80
Ealing	50	90
Enfield	50	70
Greenwich	50	70
Hackney	30	50
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	40
Haringey	30	50
Harrow	40	50
Havering	70	100
Hillingdon	50	70
Hounslow	50	70
Islington	30	40
Kensington and Chelsea	10	10
Kingston upon Thames	20	40
Lambeth	40	50
Lewisham	40	60

Table 4: Employment and support allowance: Men aged 60 to 65, London local authorities time series

	August 2009	*August 2010*
Merton	30	70
Newham	50	70
Redbridge	50	80
Richmond upon Thames	20	20
Southwark	40	50
Sutton	30	50
Tower Hamlets	20	50
Waltham Forest	40	60
Wandsworth	40	60
City of Westminster	30	30

"—" denotes nil or negligible. *Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) for most new claims from October 2008.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claimants of incapacity benefit were aged over *(a)* 40, *(b)* 50, *(c)* 55, *(d)* 60 and *(e)* 65 in each of the last seven years. [53473]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number and percentage of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants by age group—Great Britain and abroad

	As at August:							
	2004		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
Age	*Case load*	*% of case load*	*Case load*	*% of case load*	*Case load*	*% of case load*	*Case load*	*% of case load*
All	2,817,010	—	2,767,740	—	2,724,980	—	2,683,160	—
40-49	663,140	23.5	665,610	24.0	668,720	24.5	673,430	25.1
50-54	405,950	14.4	396,110	14.3	390,820	14.3	390,110	14.5
55-59	546,160	19.4	542,570	19.6	532,040	19.5	498,470	18.6
60-64	338,890	12.0	329,010	11.9	323,290	11.9	321,980	12.0
Over 65	28,080	1.0	28,890	1.0	29,590	1.1	30,340	1.1

	As at August:					
	2008		*2009*		*2010*	
Age	*Case load*	*% of case load*	*Case load*	*% of case load*	*Case load*	*% of case load*
All	2,632,000	—	2,299,580	—	2,082,570	—
40-49	674,510	25.6	604,960	26.3	553,860	26.6
50-54	389,320	14.8	356,510	15.5	333,050	16.0
55-59	478,010	18.2	427,780	18,6	390,350	18.7
60-64	312,800	11.9	287,030	12.5	276,220	13.3
Over 65	30,730	1.2	31,130	1.4	31,250	1.5

Number and percentage of employment and support allowance claimants by age group—Great Britain and abroad

	August 2009		*August 2010*	
Age	*Case load*	*% of case load*	*Case load*	*% of case load*
All	374,440	—	563,980	—
40-49	95,570	25.5	149,700	26.5
50-54	45,060	12.0	71,390	12.7
55-59	45,730	12.2	69,760	12.4
60-64	19,900	5.3	28,870	5.1

Number and percentage of employment and support allowance claimants by age group—Great Britain and abroad

	August 2009		August 2010	
Age	Case load	% of case load	Case load	% of case load
Over 65	320	0.1	420	0.1

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
4. Although in general incapacity benefits apply to people of working age, a small number of claimants are over state pension age.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Jobseeker's Allowance

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Sunderland had been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than a year in each of the last three years. [54390]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 6 May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Sunderland had been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than a year in each of the last 3 years. (54390)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1 shows the number of persons resident in Sunderland who were in receipt of JSA for more than a year for March of each of the last 3 years.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people in Sunderland in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than a year

As at March:	Number
2009	770
2010	1,555
2011	680

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Pension Credit

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of pensioners eligible to receive pension credit who are not in receipt of pension credit. [54020]

Steve Webb: In 2008-09 it is estimated that there were between 980,000 and 1.60 million entitled non-recipients of pension credit in Great Britain. These are the latest estimates and are taken from the National Statistics publication, "Income Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-Up 2008-09". The publication is available online at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=irb

Personal Independence Payments

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the additional annual cost to the Exchequer of assessing only new claimants for personal independence payments compared to existing expenditure on the administration of disability living allowance in each of the five financial years from 2012-13. [52998]

Maria Miller: The annual cost of administering personal independence payment will depend on the detail of how the benefit is delivered and the design of the new assessment. Costs will be refined as further detail on the reform is developed. Approximate high-level delivery costs (both one off investment and DEL) have been estimated to be £675 million (net present value) over the period 2011-12 to 2015-16. These include provision for making changes to the IT systems, training DWP staff, the administrative effort required to manage the transition of existing recipients to the new system and the cost of trained independent assessors undertaking the new assessment.

We are unable to estimate the cost of administering the personal independence payment in 2013-14 or 2014-15 as the information is not available. It will depend on the detail of how it is delivered and the design of the new objective assessment; the result of the current consultation exercise will help inform this. Costs will be refined as further detail on the reform is developed. The Government will set out further detail at the earliest appropriate point.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the change in the *(a)* number of benefit recipients and *(b)* level of public expenditure if the personal independence payment were introduced for new claimants only in each of the next five financial years. [52999]

Maria Miller: Support in personal independence payment will be focused on those who face the biggest barriers to independent living. The assessment is being developed and an assessment is not available of the changes for future recipients. We are working with disabled people and organisations that represent them on the detailed design and delivery of personal independence payment and the outcomes from this work will be reflected in updates to the impact assessment for this change. We have already announced that personal independence payment will be a non taxable, non means-tested benefit payable to people in or out of work.

Remploy

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Remploy to ensure that adults with *(a)* autism and *(b)* Down's syndrome are given training and work opportunities; and if he will make a statement. [51906]

Maria Miller: I have had many discussions with Remploy on a range of issues concerning supporting people with various disabilities into work.

Remploy delivers Work Choice and operates a wide range of services designed to enhance the employment opportunities available to people with both autism and Down's syndrome, including CV development, vocational skills development, job specific training, confidence building and one to one job search support.

Specific examples of the work that Remploy are involved in include:

A European Social Fund contract to improve the skills for learning and future employment of 14 to 19-year-olds with complex barriers, including people with ASD and learning disabilities such as Down's syndrome. This contract operates in Neath Port Talbot, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Swansea local authority areas.

Working with the National Autistic Society (NAS) to increase the number of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) entering and maintaining sustainable employment. More than 400 Employment Services staff have received ASD awareness training, helping them to deliver more effective employment support to people with ASD. Remploy and NAS have also developed a tool which identifies learning disabilities and autism traits, enabling the development of individual Person Centred Plans which help overcome specific barriers to employment presented by autism and learning disabilities.

Remploy: Voluntary Redundancy

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former employees of Remploy who took voluntary redundancy in the last 10 years went on to *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment. [43437]

Maria Miller: Responsibility for data regarding past employees lies with Remploy. I understand that they do not routinely hold information about their ex-employees. It is therefore not possible to provide detailed information about the proportion of people formerly employed at Remploy factories taking voluntary redundancy over the last 10 years, who have found full-time or part-time employment.

The majority of employees who took voluntary redundancy from the company in the last 10 years did so under Remploy's Modernisation Plan in 2007 and 2008, which was agreed and set up by the previous Administration.

In 2008, Remploy conducted a survey among the 1,800 former employees who had taken voluntary redundancy, to which 650 responded. As this represents only around one-third of the total, the results cannot be used to draw conclusions about the group as a whole. This showed that 19% of those who responded were in work. Of the remaining:

33% were actively looking for work;

42% had taken retirement;

12% would look for work in the future; and

13% were carers, in education or training, did not want work or whose status was unspecified.

194 ex-employees accepted Remploy's offer of support to find another job and 134 found jobs at that time.

Retirement: Public Sector

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of maintaining the current retirement age for public sector workers who have been in employment of a physical nature. [53828]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

In its final report the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, chaired by Lord Hutton, recommended that the Government consider a new normal pension age of 60 across the uniformed services to reflect the unique characteristics of the work involved, to be kept under regular review.

At Budget 2011 the Government announced that they accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation with public sector workers, trade unions and others. The Government will set out proposals that are affordable, sustainable, and fair to both the public sector work force and the taxpayer.

Social Fund

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to localise all elements of the Social Fund; and if he will make a statement. [54289]

Steve Webb: Our plans for reform of the Social Fund are summarised in the following table:

Current provision	*Provision from April 2013*	*Administration in Great Britain from 2013*
Cold weather payments	As now. Universal credit will become a qualifying benefit	Department for Work Pensions
Funeral payments	As now. Universal credit will become a qualifying benefit	Department for Work Pensions
Sure Start maternity grants	As now. Universal credit will become a qualifying benefit	Department for Work Pensions
Winter fuel payments	As now	Department for Work Pensions
Budgeting loans	As now for existing income-related benefits. Payments on account replacement provision available to eligible universal credit recipients	Department for Work Pensions
Community care grants	Abolished and replaced with locally-based provision	English local authorities. Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales

Current provision	*Provision from April 2013*	*Administration in Great Britain from 2013*
Crisis loan alignment payments	Replaced with payments on account of benefit. The new payments on account will also replace interim payments of benefit so there is a single system of payments	Department for Work Pensions
Crisis loans for general living expenses	Abolished and replaced with locally-based provision	English local authorities. Devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which types of goods and services his Department provided community care grants in the latest period for which figures are available. [50232]

Steve Webb: The information available is as follows:

Types of goods and services provided through community care grants in 2009-10 in Great Britain

Cooker
Bed
Floor covering
Miscellaneous household items
Washing machine
Bedding
Home improvements and maintenance
Redecoration
Removal expenses
Rent in advance
Travelling expenses
Clothing and footwear
Fuel/meter /reconnection
Leisure items
Pre-adoption fees
Others
CCG home leave expenses
Miscellaneous.

Note:

Some categories of goods and services account for nil or negligible numbers of items awarded, these categories have been excluded from the above list.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of community care grants were awarded to single people or couples without children in the most recent period for which figures are available. [50236]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. Records on the Social Fund computer system do not routinely include information on the applicant's marital status or the number of children they have and the information is not collated as Management Information; therefore we are unable to report on this.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department reached the calculation that 70 per cent. of households affected by the proposed overall cap on benefit entitlement will be in social housing. [49483]

Steve Webb: The costing model used to estimate the effects of the benefit cap uses DWP's Policy Simulation Model (PSM), which is a static microsimulation model based on data from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey, uprated to the relevant year's prices, benefit rates and earnings levels.

Household total benefit income is calculated, and where applicable capped at the appropriate level. Whether a household lives in social housing can then be identified based on the underlying Family Resources Survey data.

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the level at which maximum allowable child care costs would need to be set in universal credit in order to cover up to *(a)* 80 per cent., *(b)* 70 per cent. and *(c)* 60 per cent. of child care costs assuming overall spending remains the same as in the present system. [52509]

Maria Miller: We have announced that support for child care costs will be provided in universal credit by an additional element, and that we aim to extend support to those working fewer than 16 hours. We have also announced during the Commons Committee stage of the Welfare Reform Bill that we intend to discuss with stakeholders the options for delivering this within the existing financial envelope for child care costs in the current tax credit and benefit system. The maximum allowable child care costs under different options will be a key factor in those discussions, which will take place over the coming weeks.

Work Capability Assessment

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has been made on implementing the recommendations of the Harrington review into work capability assessments; what plans he has for the implementation of such recommendations in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [52983]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent progress has been made on implementing the recommendations of the Harrington review into work capability assessments and what plans he has for the implementation of such recommendations in the West Midlands. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Following his review of the work capability assessment in 2010 Professor Harrington made 14 recommendations to be implemented by Jobcentre Plus, by Atos Healthcare or jointly by both organisations.

Considerable progress has been made in implementing these recommendations. Many are now incorporated into the processes to support the reassessment of Incapacity Benefit cases nationally. Plans are in place to extend this to include Employment and Support Allowance cases. Details of progress in all 14 recommendations have been placed in the Library.

TREASURY

Banking

Sajid Javid: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the net liabilities of British banks to public and private sector entities in *(a)* Greece, *(b)* Portugal, *(c)* Ireland and *(d)* Spain on the most recent date for which information is available. [54214]

Mr Hoban: Data on external assets and liabilities of all monetary financial institutions operating in the UK are available on the Bank of England website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/bankstats/current/tabc3.2.xls

In its latest Financial Stability Report (December 2010), the Bank of England published UK banking sector claims on public and private sector entities in Greece, Portugal, Ireland and Spain. This information can be found one the following website:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/fsr/2010/fsr28.htm

Debts: Developing Countries

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had discussions with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* UN counterparts on multilateral agreements to prevent funds which invest in debt from pursuing excessive claims against developing countries. [54556]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

The Government have decided to make the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010 permanent. The draft Order was laid before Parliament on 28 March 2011.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53806]

Justine Greening: The Treasury owns a single building at 1 Horse Guards Road. The net book value of the building was £74,438,000 at 31 March 2010 as shown in Note 11 to the Department's Resource Accounts available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department are provided with mobile communication devices; and how much his Department spent on mobile telephones and related data services in the last year for which figures are available. [51420]

Justine Greening: Currently there are 477 active mobile devices provided to the HM Treasury officials, in line with the Department's published Mobile Communications Policy.

Costs for mobile devices for financial year 2010-11 were £135,743.79.

Economic Forecasting

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in the Office of Budget Responsibility are employed to undertake economic forecasting; and how many of them previously worked in his Department. [50100]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 31 March 2001:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

At the establishment of the permanent OBR, four members of HM Treasury staff were transferred to the OBR to undertake economic forecasting. The transfer was conducted under the processes governing machinery of government changes.

We have also recruited a further member of staff to conduct economic forecasting via an external competition process. That staff member has not previously worked at HM Treasury.

Insolvency

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with RBS and Lloyds TSB on their use of insolvency practitioners in the last 12 months. [54113]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor has discussions with the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group, as he does with other organisations. As was the case with previous Administrations, the Government do not disclose details of all such meetings and discussions.

Nuclear Power Stations: Environment Protection

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the additional revenue that will accrue to existing nuclear power station operators as a result of the carbon price support proposals announced in the 2011 Budget. [52152]

Justine Greening: The carbon price floor announced in the Budget is intended to create economic incentives toward low-carbon electricity generation and away from high-carbon generation. All types of low-carbon technologies will be incentivised by the price floor. The impact on utility companies' profitability will depend on the overall composition of their generation portfolios and future investment decisions.

The existing nuclear sector is likely to benefit by an average of £50 million per annum to 2030 due to higher wholesale electricity prices. Similarly, the renewable energy sector is expected to benefit by an average of at least £25 million a year to 2030.

Pensions: Public Sector

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely changes in opt-out rates for public sector pension schemes as a result of an increase in the contribution rate. [53070]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The spending review 2010 announced that the Government will implement progressive changes to the level of employee contributions equivalent to an average of three percentage points, to be phased in from April 2012.

The costing for this measure was scrutinised by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, and assumed an increase in the opt-out rate equal to 1% of total pay bill.

Social Enterprises

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exempt social enterprises from the exclusion of feed-in tariffs businesses from the Enterprise Investment Scheme and venture capital trusts. [54274]

Mr Gauke: Legislation will be introduced in the Finance Bill 2012 providing that companies whose trade consists wholly or substantially in the receipt of feed-in tariffs will only be eligible for the Enterprise Investment Scheme or Venture Capital Trusts where commercial electricity generation commences before 6 April 2012. The change will not apply to any shares issued before 23 March 2011.

This change is designed to improve the focus of the schemes on smaller, higher risk companies. Draft legislation will be published for consultation before it is implemented.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Martin Vickers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the amount transferred in social security payment transfers under the provisions of EU Regulation No 1408/71 in each of the last 10 years. [54867]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

I will let my hon. Friend have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Ben Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has considered the merits of transferring the duty to pay house sale stamp duty tax from the purchaser to the vendor. [53283]

Justine Greening: Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) is a transaction tax payable by the purchaser on the acquisition of an interest in land or property in the UK.

Stamp Duty Land Tax policy, like that of all taxes, is kept under review through the normal Budget process.

Taxation: Offshore Industry

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in levels of employment resulting from the proposals in the 2011 Budget relating to the taxation of North Sea oil and gas companies. [53150]

Justine Greening: As set out in the relevant Tax Information and Impact Note, available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6133.htm

the Government do not expect a significant impact on investment or production in the forecast period as a consequence of this measure, and therefore the impact on employment levels should not be significant.

Taxation: Tourists

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential effects on tourism in seaside towns of proposed changes in the taxation arrangements for seaside arcades from amusement machine licence duty to machine games duty; and if he will make a statement. [54662]

Justine Greening: The Government are seeking further input from industry on machine games duty, and a formal consultation will be issued soon.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Charity Commission on the likely effect of the establishment of the Big Society Bank on the funding of charities. [54096]

Mr Hurd: The Minister meets regularly with the Charity Commission to discuss a range of issues, including the Big Society Bank. The Big Society Bank will help to grow the social investment market and so make it easier for social entrepreneurs to access capital, helping them raise more money for onward investment.

Civil Service: Redundancy

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* voluntary redundancies there have been in the civil service since May 2010. [54097]

Mr Maude: Individual Departments and agencies are responsible for offering staff compulsory and voluntary redundancy, and this information is not recorded centrally.

The civil service has a corporate approach to minimising compulsory redundancies. Over the last five years, the issue of compulsory redundancy notices to those who wanted to continue their civil service career has been limited to less than 400.

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Cabinet Ministers are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's Big Society initiative. [42149]

Mr Hurd: Big Society is a cross-Government initiative and each Cabinet Minister will be responsible for their decisions on what voluntary activities they decide to undertake.

Government Departments: Cost-effectiveness

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce *(a)* costs and *(b)* inefficiency through collaboration between Government Departments. [52845]

Mr Maude: Significant steps have been taken in reducing costs and improving efficiency between Departments since the coalition Government came to office just under a year ago. The Emergency Budget set immediate cost reductions of £6.2 billion across Departments, which has been achieved with close to £3 billion directly attributed to Cabinet Office initiatives through reducing spend on consultants, re-negotiating contracts with major suppliers, the ICT and Estates Moratoriums and review and in some cases stopping of major programmes. New strategies have recently been approved on ICT, centralised procurement and major programmes which will see greater efficiency and collaboration across Departments to help support the £83 billion cost reductions required over the CSR period.

Public Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what analysis his Department has commissioned on the effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on applications to the Targeted Support Fund; and what related research he has received from *(a)* the Community Development Foundation and *(b)* other organisations on the effect on the delivery of the fund of the outcome of the review; [54529]

(2) what analysis his Department has commissioned on the effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on applications to the Modernisation Fund; and what related research he has received from *(a)* the Social Investment Business, *(b)* Capacitybuilders and *(c)* other organisations on the effect on the delivery of the fund of the outcome of the review; [54530]

(3) what analysis his Department has commissioned on the effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on applications to the Hardship Fund; and what related research he has received from *(a)* the Community Development Foundation and *(b)* other organisations on the effect on the delivery of the fund of the outcome of the review. [54531]

Mr Hurd: The Targeted Support Fund, Modernisation Fund and Hardship Fund were all one-year-only funds, available in 2009-10 only. All were closed by the time of the spending review 2010 announcement. The lessons and knowledge learnt from all three were fed into the negotiations over the Cabinet Office's spending review bid, and were of particular benefit in the design and roll out of the Transition Fund.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what analysis his Department has commissioned on the effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on applications to the Transition Fund; and what related research he has received from *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(b)* Capacitybuilders, *(c)* the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations and *(d)* other organisations on the effect on the delivery of the fund of the outcome of the review. [54532]

Mr Hurd: The Transition Fund was launched as part of the spending review 2010 and will be subject to an internal evaluation by Big Fund, which is delivering the fund on behalf of the Cabinet Office. We took evidence from a variety of previous funds and stakeholders to feed into the negotiations for the spending review settlement.

Third Sector

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* other Government staff of (A) his Department and (B) the Department for Communities and Local Government have been engaged in the piloting of each of the Big Society vanguard areas (i) through secondment and (ii) in addition to their usual duties. [46540]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has not engaged any staff in the formulation of the Big Society vanguards. Work on vanguards is being taken forward by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what estimate his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* received from (i) strategic partners of the Office for Civil Society and (ii) other external organisations of the likely reductions in the voluntary sector attributable to reductions in public expenditure (A) in 2011-12 and (B) over the course of the comprehensive spending review period; [546[illegible]]

(2) what estimate his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* received from (i) strategic partners of the Office for Civil Society and (ii) other external organisations of likely redundancies in the voluntary sector attributable to reductions in public expenditure (A) in 2011-12 and (B) over the course of the comprehensive spending review period; [54871]

(3) what estimate his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* received from (i) strategic partners of the Office for Civil Society and (ii) other external organisations of likely closures of voluntary organisations attributable to reductions in public expenditure (A) in 2011-12 and (B) over the course of the comprehensive spending review period. [54882]

Mr Hurd: There are no robust figures available from the sector or within Government on the impact of public spending reductions. Officials are currently looking at the best way for central Government Departments to regularly report publicly on spending on the voluntary sector, both in terms of baseline levels and how these levels change over the course of the spending period.

The Government are committed to supporting the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to move forward at this difficult time, and continue to work closely with partners in the sector to understand and mitigate the impacts of any spending reductions.

The Government's programme of reform will create significant new opportunities for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector as we open up public service markets and make these markets more accessible to the sector.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Elections: Fraud

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to minimise potential levels of electoral fraud in the *(a)* local elections and *(b)* London mayoral election in 2012. [54405]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission has led work with police forces, political parties and returning officers to raise awareness of integrity issues and strengthen systems to ensure that fraud is detected and prosecuted, and to draw attention to existing good practice. There is evidence of effective working between returning officers and local police at recent elections with the police engaged on election issues and committed to the detection of electoral fraud, which is reflected in the findings of the joint report by the Association of Chief Police Officers and Electoral Commission on the May 2010 elections, 'Analysis of cases of alleged electoral malpractice in 2010'. This approach was continued for the polls that took place on 5 May 2011. The Government will wish to consider carefully the planned reports by the Electoral Commission on those polls, and any recommendations made by the Electoral Commission, and will continue to keep procedures under review to ensure that the electoral process is secure for the elections in 2012.

Electoral Register

Tessa Munt: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether electoral services in each local authority are part of the Tell Us Once service. [53915]

Mr Harper: The Tell Us Once programme is aimed at ensuring that people only have to inform the public sector once of a change in personal circumstances, so that this may be shared with other public authorities, rather than the individual having to inform each public authority that needs to know separately. (Currently this service is restricted to the notification of births and deaths.)

The Government do not collect information on whether local authority electoral services departments make use of information provided by the Tell Us Once service. I am informed that this service is currently available in 42 local authority areas, and that up to 90% of local authorities in Great Britain are committed to become part of this service by November.

Where that information is provided to a local authority, it is for the electoral registration officer to make use of it to update the electoral register.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to The Plan for Growth, March 2011, paragraph 2.17, what requirements he plans to put in place on the number of businesses that will need to work together in order to bring forward a neighbourhood plan. [52090]

Greg Clark: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 188-89W.

Council Tax

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department is providing to local authorities on the start date for port companies to pay newly-assessed council taxes; and what steps he plans to take to ensure consistency of practice in this matter by local authorities. [54298]

Robert Neill: Businesses, such as the port companies, are liable for ongoing non-domestic rates bills that accrue from the date the property was initially put on the rating list. The Government, through the Localism Bill, will cancel the backdated non-domestic rates bills up to that date, where the criteria for the schedule of payment policy are met and also where they were split from a predecessor hereditament. The Department published a Business Rates Information Letter (8/2010) in May 2010 as guidance, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/businessrates/busratesinformationletters/ratesletters2010/

District Heating

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers his Department plans to give to local authorities to incentivise the establishment of district heating systems. [54267]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities are already able to drive development of district heating systems in their areas, for example by setting out their support for district heating in local plans. The planning system is an important means of creating conditions able to supporting district heating networks, including by requiring that new buildings connect to existing networks and co-locating heat supply with heat demand.

We recognise that there remain barriers to development of district heating, particularly in relation to the lack of evidence and understanding about the existence and availability of heat demand. We are therefore developing a National Heat Map for England. The map will be available online as a tool to help local authorities identify, to street and building level, what heat demand exists and where best to locate heat networks or heat technologies.

Energy Performance Certificates

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for requirements for Energy Performance Certificates for properties used as holiday lets. [54381]

Andrew Stunell: An Energy Performance Certificate will be needed from 30 June 2011 for properties which are used as holiday lets for a combined period of more than four months in any 12 month period.

The Department consulted last year on extending Energy Performance Certificates to holiday lets. We published details of the outcome of the consultation on 30 November 2010.

Enterprise Zones

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his plans for enterprise zones will include incentives for investment in intangible assets in addition to capital allowance-based incentives. [52727]

Robert Neill: The Government have put forward a range of measures to develop enterprise zones and make them attractive places to do business. These include:

A business rate discount of 100%, up to £275,000 over a five year period;

All business rate growth generated by the zone for a period of at least 25 years will be keep by that area.

The new enterprise zones policy recognises that there may be a case for offering capital allowances to businesses in enterprise zones which are based in EU-assisted areas and have a strong focus on heavy industry and manufacturing.

The Government are willing to hold discussions with local enterprise partnerships if they feel that additional incentives are required to overcome local barriers to economic growth.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that economic incentives available within enterprise zones are not misused by the tax avoidance industry. [52734]

Robert Neill: Business rate discounts are limited by EU state aid law, up to a de minimis threshold of €200,000 over a rolling three-year period, the equivalent of approximately £55,000 per year. The relevant local authority will ensure that businesses do not receive greater levels of support.

EU Grants and Loans: North East England

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 54W, on EU grants and loans: North East, what progress he has made on implementing the mitigating measures required to ensure that the European Regional Development Fund programmes in England are in compliance with European Commission regulations. [53729]

Robert Neill: A written ministerial statement on the future arrangements for the operation of European Regional Development Funding in England, including maintaining compliance, was made on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 48-49WS.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 381W, on EU grants and loans: North East, what arrangements are in place to ensure that match-funding is available for the North East England 2007-13 European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness Programme. [53730]

Robert Neill: We expect that match funding will be available from a range of public sources such as the Regional Growth Fund. We have made arrangements to align the bidding process for Round Two of the Regional Growth Fund with the bidding rounds for the ERDF programmes to maximise the opportunity for organisations to receive support from both funds. We are also expecting some match funding to be provided from the private sector.

Fire Services: Private Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to Chief Fire Officers wishing to transfer to the private sector in the last 12 months. [54087]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 4 May 2011]*: No guidance for Chief Fire Officers wishing to transfer to the private sector has been issued by the Department in the last 12 months. Fire and Rescue Authorities are the employers and any such guidance would be for them, and not the Department, to issue.

Historic Buildings: Sales

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to prevent the sale of historic buildings by local authorities. [54116]

Robert Neill: None of the disposal regimes for local authority land contains special provisions for the disposal of historic buildings. The only special provisions for particular types of land is for open space, where prospective disposals have to be advertised in advance and the local authority must take any representations received into account.

There are three regimes for the disposal of local authority land. The general one is under section 123 Local Government Act 1972, which says that local authorities may dispose of land in any manner they wish. The Secretary of State's only role is to give or withhold consent if the disposal is at less than the best consideration reasonably obtainable. There is a general disposal consent if the undervalue of the disposal is less than £2 million.

The disposal power for land held for planning purposes is section 233 Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is similar to the Local Government Act regime except that there is no power to issue a general consent. This means that all disposals at less than best consideration must receive a specific consent.

The disposal of land and buildings held by local authorities for housing purposes is governed by consents issued by the Secretary of State under section 32 of the Housing Act 1985 and section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988. A general consent issued under section 32 allows (among other things) local authorities to dispose of properties to individuals at market value. A general consent issued under section 25 allows for disposal at undervalue to registered providers of social housing. For disposals that fall outside these general consents, local authorities currently need to approach the Secretary of State for a specific consent and each application is judged on its merit. Usually a special consent will be provided if it is considered that the application is in line with the local authority's strategic plans for the provision of social and affordable housing, the regeneration of the local area and we are satisfied that any tenants involved have been fully consulted and do not oppose the proposals.

Housing: Construction

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the potential benefits for Portsmouth of the New Homes Bonus. [54497]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus provides a powerful incentive for local authorities to increase their housing supply. It will be paid for six years and is based on the council tax available from increase in local housing supply—either through new homes or by better use of existing stock.

Final allocations for 2011-12 were announced on 4 April and reward housing delivered between October 2009 and October 2010. Portsmouth has received £333,899 for 2011-12. Based on year one delivery alone, over the six years this amounts to £2,003,394. From April 2012 Portsmouth can also benefit from a bonus based on homes being delivered now and future homes will deliver further rewards.

Full details of the calculation for the bonus can be found in the final scheme design document, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/finalschemodesign

Housing: Sexuality

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on steps to ensure that mainstream housing providers are aware of the *(a)* needs and *(b)* rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people who are homeless; [54235]

(2) with which organisations his Department is working to develop best practice guidance for protecting tenants subject to homophobic and transphobic harassment; [54263]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of homelessness among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people. [54264]

Grant Shapps: Social housing providers have a legal requirement to ensure that they comply with the Equality Act 2010, including in relation to sexual orientation. In addition, all social housing providers who are registered with the social housing regulator are compelled through its standards framework to respond to and demonstrate that they understand the different and diverse needs of their tenants.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has contact with organisations such as Stonewall and the Albert Kennedy Trust that provide advice and guidance on meeting the housing needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Guidance produced by both organisations on working with homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people is available on the Department's National Youth Homelessness Scheme website. The Chartered Institute of Housing has also recently published advice for housing associations on how to provide services to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender tenants. The Department is working with the Chartered Institute of Housing to develop new best practice guidance for social landlords on preventing and tackling antisocial behaviour, including protecting tenants who are subject to homophobic harassment and hate crime.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times he has met representatives of the *(a)* Federation of Small Businesses, *(b)* Institute of Directors and *(c)* Forum of Private Business to discuss the establishment of a co-ordinating and representative body for local enterprise partnerships. [54217]

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Federation of Small Businesses, *(b)* the Institute of Directors and *(c)* the Forum of Private Business to discuss the national representative body for local enterprise partnerships to be led by the British Chambers of Commerce. [54591]

Robert Neill: The Department meets regularly with business representative bodies on a range of policy issues including local enterprise partnerships.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations his Department consulted on proposals to fund an external organisation to co-ordinate a representative forum for local enterprise partnerships. [54218]

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations were consulted on his Department's decision to select the British Chambers of Commerce to lead a national representative body for local enterprise partnerships. [54593]

Robert Neill: The Government have chosen the British Chamber of Commerce as the preferred option to run a network of local enterprise partnerships, following the initial proposal that they submitted to the Department. We feel that with its existing extensive network and capability across the country, the British Chamber of Commerce is ideally placed to provide the capability and support that partnerships need to achieve their economic ambitions.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on proposals to set up a national representative body for local enterprise partnerships. [54219]

Robert Neill: The Department meets regularly with Department for Business, Innovation and Skills bodies on a range of policy issues. Local enterprise partnerships is a joint policy between these two Departments and Ministers have discussed and agreed the way forward on the proposed network.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what aims and objectives he has set for the new national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [54220]

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the aims and objectives are of the new national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [54590]

Robert Neill: The network will provide a forum for local leaders to share ideas, solve problems and get the latest data they need to promote economic growth across the country.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procurement process was used to award the contract for a national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [54221]

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procurement process his Department used to select the British Chambers of Commerce to lead a national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [54592]

Robert Neill: The British Chamber of Commerce offered to run a network of local enterprise partnerships and submitted a proposal to support this offer. The decision to engage with a British Chamber of Commerce-led network has been made on the basis of their good fit, national reach and ambition to deliver this work across the country for local enterprise partnerships. The Department is not procuring this service but will support this activity led by British Chamber of Commerce.

No grant agreement is yet in place and any funding awarded will be subject to a satisfactory funding agreement which will be dependent on the quality of their final business case.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what process the contract to run the representative body for local enterprise partnerships was awarded; and what consultation he undertook with business organisations before the award was made. [54024]

Robert Neill: The Government have chosen the British Chamber of Commerce as the preferred option to run a network of local enterprise partnerships following their initial proposal submitted to the Department. We hope other business organisations will engage constructively in this work going forward.

However, no grant agreement is yet in place and any funding awarded will be subject to a satisfactory funding agreement which will be dependent on the quality of British Chamber of Commerce final business case.

Local Government: Redundancy Pay

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 638W, on local government: redundancy pay, whether his Department provides any separate funds to contribute to the costs of redundancies deemed necessary under spending adjustments. [54022]

Robert Neill: It is for individual councils to make decisions about how their workforces are organised and managed to deliver efficient services for local taxpayers, including managing redundancy costs. The Government do not provide any separate funding for these costs.

Councils may apply to DCLG to capitalise redundancy costs. £300 million of capitalisation is available in 2011-12 to help councils who wish to deliver efficiency savings early through organisational restructuring.

Ports

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria are used to determine whether a berth is included in the rating assessment for port companies; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that such criteria are applied consistently. [54299]

Robert Neill: The Valuation Office Agency is responsible for the assessment of properties for business rates in accordance with the rating legislation and established legal precedent. The approach to the separate assessment of berths follows the principles of "exclusive occupation" and "paramount control" which are long established.

While the agency applies the law consistently, decisions on whether to assess a particular property will ultimately rest on the facts in each individual case. Decisions will take into account, but will not be limited to, such factors as the use of the berth, physical location, degree of control being exercised and other factors that may vary from property to property.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the loss of income to local authorities as a result of the decision to cancel retrospective rate demands made on port businesses; whether he plans to bring forward proposals to compensate local authorities for any loss; and if he will make a statement. [54302]

Robert Neill: The cost of cancelling the backdated rates bills, as set out in the impact assessment for the Localism Bill, is estimated at £177 million. This cost will be met by central Government and will not impact upon revenues for local authorities allocated to them as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Regional Planning and Development

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on taking account of the potential abolition of regional targets for renewable energy when determining planning applications. [53625]

Robert Neill: The Chief Planner's letter to local planning authorities of 10 November advised that the Secretary of State expected them to have regard to the Government's intention to abolish regional strategies as a material consideration in planning decisions.

Sheltered Housing Wardens

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has plans to encourage greater provision of sheltered housing wardens as part of the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [53878]

Greg Clark: My Department is giving communities more control over how public money is spent and local services are delivered, including sheltered housing wardens, for instance through the Community Right to Challenge.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to review the Deposit Protection Service. [54830]

Grant Shapps: My Department will be looking carefully at the operation of tenancy deposit protection schemes as part of future exercises to put in place schemes once the current service provision agreements come to an end. In the meantime, my officials will continue to assess monthly reports of performance against key performance indicators and discuss any issues at quarterly monitoring meetings with each of the schemes.

Third Sector

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives his Department is providing to local authorities to increase the delivery of services by the charitable and voluntary sector. [54232]

Andrew Stunell: Spending decisions are, and will continue to be, a matter for local authorities. We have given local authorities more freedoms and flexibilities so that they can apportion their resources where they are most needed. The charitable and voluntary sector is vital to delivery of public services and the big society and DCLG is making it easier for councils to engage the sector in the commissioning and procurement of services.

We are supporting the Local Government Group's Productivity Programme, which will work with councils to identify and disseminate good practice around working with the voluntary and community sector for all authorities to learn from. We are revising Best Value guidance to set out clearer expectations around the relationship between authorities and the sector when facing difficult funding decisions, and to be more explicit about the scope for authorities to consider social value in their functions. The Community Right to Challenge in the Localism Bill will ensure that local authorities consider and respond to expressions of interest from voluntary and community bodies in running local services.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: South East England

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of accident and emergency waiting times at *(a)* Queen Elizabeth hospital, Woolwich, *(b)* Princess Royal hospital, Farnborough and *(c)* Darent Valley hospital, Dartford. [54025]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected in the format requested.

Information is held at the level of trusts and information is not published for specific hospital sites.

The following table shows the proportion of patients who spent less than four hours in accident and emergency (A and E), minor injury units (MIU) and walk-in centres (WIC) from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge in quarter 3 of 2010-11.

All A and E/MIU/WIC (type 1, 2, 3)

	Total attendances	*Percentage who spent less than four hours in A and E*
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	76,563	92.42
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	26,266	92.25

Source:
Unify2 data collection: Quarterly Monitoring Accident and Emergency Services (QMAE).

This is available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/AccidentandEmergency/DH_079085

More recent data on the proportion of patients who spent less than four hours in A and E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge for quarter 4 (Q4) of 2009-10 and year to date (YTD) 2011-12 are presented in the following table. However, these data are unvalidated management information that do not undergo the same quality checks as the QMAE figures provided above.

Total attendances and performance, YTD 2011-12 (week ending 10, 17 and 24 April 2011) and Q4 2010-11 (week ending 9 January 2011 to week ending 3 April 2011, 13 weeks)

Hospital provider		*Period*	*Total attendances*	*Percentage who spent less than four hours in A and E*
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	2011-12	YTD 2011-12 (3 weeks)	10,113	96.0
	2010-11	Q4 (13 weeks)	44,024	93.6
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	2011-12	YTD 2011-12 (3 weeks)	5,588	94.8
	2010-11	Q4 (13 weeks)	23,288	91.3

Data on average waiting times in A and E are available from the A and E Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set. The following table sets out the mean and median time spent between arrival and departure in A and E departments in 2009-10 (latest published data).

Minutes

Hospital provider	*Mean duration to departure*	*Median duration to departure*
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	171	153
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	183	196

Notes:

1. *Duration to Departure:*
The time (expressed as a whole number of minutes) between the patients arrival and the time the A and E attendance has concluded and the department is no longer responsible for the care of the patient.

2. *A and E Data Quality:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by a number of NHS providers across England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seek to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. The A and E HES publications addresses some of the key data quality and coverage issues. These are available on HESonline at:
www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1271

Source:
A and E HES, the NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Bassetlaw Hospital: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementing his proposed NHS reforms on *(a)* patient care and *(b)* resources at Bassetlaw Hospital. [54115]

Mr Simon Burns: The effects of the proposed national health service reforms on patient care and resources are discussed within the impact assessment, published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill. It is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

and a copy has already been placed in the Library.

Paragraph 19 of the impact assessment says,

> "The policies proposed in the White Paper and the Bill will put patients at the heart of the NHS, giving patients, carers and the public a stronger collective voice, greater choice and control, and more involvement in decisions about their care, supported by an information revolution that aims to transform how information is provided. They will bring about a greater focus on improving outcomes, so that the NHS focus on what matters most to patients: high quality care. They will also empower clinicians, free providers and professionals from bureaucracy and central control and make NHS services more accountable to patients and communities. Removing unnecessary layers of bureaucracy will simplify the existing structure of the NHS, driving efficiency in the short-term and helping to ensure that the NHS is both sustainable and self-improving in the longer-term."

The proposed NHS reforms are subject to the outcome of the NHS Listening Exercise. We are taking advantage of the natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to pause, listen, reflect and improve the legislation. By June 2011, we will have decided how to take forward the Bill in a way that reflects what we have heard.

Blood: Donors

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to prohibit financial incentives for those giving blood following the proposed changes to NHS Blood and Transplant. [54200]

Anne Milton: In the United Kingdom, blood donation is based on the principle of altruism, where donors give blood for no reward other than to help patients. Indeed, the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005, as amended, require the UK blood services, which includes NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), to encourage voluntary and unpaid blood donations. There are no plans to change this.

Long-serving donors receive milestone awards such as a badge and certificate, and those giving the greatest number of donations are invited to an awards dinner. Due to the length of time it takes to donate platelets, NHSBT does reimburse some platelet donors for parking when they are donating at city centre sites.

CJD: Disease Control

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has carried out and *(b)* is undertaking on cold sterilisation products for the prevention of cross infection of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease prion from surgical instruments; what estimate has been made of the cost of such research in the last 12 months; when the results of the ongoing research are expected; who is carrying out the ongoing research; and where the results and conclusions of such research (i) are to be and (ii) have been published. [54483]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has previously funded research on cold sterilisation products for the prevention of cross infection of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The projects funded include research on enzymatic detergents, protein detection assays, physico-chemical technologies, and barrier and surface coatings. Findings have been published in peer-reviewed journals. The Department is not currently funding any projects in this area, and there was no expenditure in 2010-11.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent from the public purse on research studies on tonsils and the appendix to detect variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; and when the results of such studies are expected. [54484]

Mr Simon Burns: To obtain an estimate of the prevalence of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in the population, the Department funds studies to detect vCJD in tonsils and appendices. From 1999-2000 to 2010-11, the Department spent £10.9 million on such studies from central research and development budgets.

Results have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Further publication is expected at the end of the current projects.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of importing blood products from non-UK sources for the purposes of prevention of transmission of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in each year since its commencement. [54485]

Anne Milton: Since 1998 a number of measures have been introduced by the UK Blood Services to reduce the risk of transfusion transmitted variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The cost of the importation of fresh frozen plasma for therapeutic use is shown in the following table:

Fresh frozen plasma: Cost of importation, 2004-11

	£ million
2004-05	0.29
2005-06	0.51
2006-07	0.31
2007-08	0.32
2008-09	0.46
2009-10	0.93
2010-11	1.02
Total	3.84

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant.

NHS Blood and Transplant report that the increased costs shown from 2008-09 are in part a result of less favourable exchange rates.

Since 1999, plasma for the manufacture of fractionated plasma products, such as immunoglobulins and clotting factors, has been obtained from non-United Kingdom sources. There is a global market for the main plasma products and most companies were largely unaffected by the changes resulting from vCJD as they source plasma from non-UK donors.

Bio Products Laboratory Ltd (BPL) is the Department-owned fractionator which supplies part of the national health service demand but only a very small proportion of global product (2% to 4%). BPL historically used plasma from the UK blood services and was therefore directly affected by the change in policy. BPL's fractionated products are used in the UK, and are also sold abroad. A cost estimate for importing the plasma that is used to manufacture BPL products that are used in the UK is not readily available, but I will place an estimate in the Library by the end of June 2011.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 426, on variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, announcing funding for the development of cold plasma decontamination technology, whether this research will examine the removal or de-activation of vCJD prions. [54553]

Mr Simon Burns: The cold plasma decontamination project will use scrapie infected mouse brain homogenates, not variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease infected tissues and homogenates. Removal of the prion will be examined.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 425W, and the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 475W on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, how many transmissions of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease have been presumed to be associated with blood since 1999. [54597]

Anne Milton: There have been three cases of clinical variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) and one case of infection (without development of clinical disease) presumed to be associated with blood transfusion. These have occurred in people who have received blood transfusions from donors who themselves went on to develop clinical vCJD after they had made the blood donation. None of these patients were transfused since 1999. The vCJD infection in these four recipients only came to light in 2003 and later because of the incubation period of vCJD.

The Transfusion Medicine Epidemiology Review (TMER), a collaborative project between the United Kingdom National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Research & Surveillance Unit (NCJDRSU) and the United Kingdom blood services, investigates evidence that CJD or vCJD may have been transmitted via the blood supply. Details are on the TMER website at:

www.cjd.ed.ac.uk/TMER/TMER.htm

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has conducted a cost analysis to compare the proposed use of prion filters and existing costs of risk reduction measures against the introduction of a variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease blood screening test which may replace or remove the need for these measures. [54816]

Anne Milton: There is currently no blood screening test that is proven to identify asymptomatic variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease infection. For this reason it is not possible to carry out a cost analysis to compare these measures.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State for Health of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 430 on variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD), what pathway his Department proposes to use to develop a prototype vCJD blood test in the event that no commercial company believes there is a business case to develop such a test. [54896]

Anne Milton: The Department is aware of a number of commercial organisations and academic institutions currently developing prototype blood tests for the abnormal prion protein associated with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he last informed the European Commission of his position on the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements; what plans he has to achieve his objectives in relation to the formulation of legislation; and if he will make a statement; [54078]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that consumers continue to have access to higher potency vitamin and mineral supplements when Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive is implemented; [54079]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that the provisions of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation do not restrict the provision to consumers of information about the intended purpose and appropriate use of natural health products. [54081]

Anne Milton: I last met with European Commissioner for Health, John Dalli, on 19 November 2010, to discuss United Kingdom concerns about setting maximum limits for food supplements. I pressed for any changes to the legislation to be based on scientific evidence of risk and not to be unduly restrictive, so that the impact on UK industry is minimised while maintaining consumer choice. Commissioner Dalli has confirmed that he recognises the UK's concerns and will take this into account in developing proposals.

Departmental officials are actively involved in European discussions as part of the health claims authorisation process. The Government's objective is to ensure that health claims are assessed and authorised appropriately so that consumers can have confidence in claims made about foods, including food supplements. Officials have met with members of food supplement trade associations to discuss the impact of the legislation, and will continue to keep interested parties informed of progress in Brussels.

Diseases: Conferences

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the appointment of a UK delegation to the forthcoming UN summit on non-communicable diseases to be announced; and if he will make a statement. [54019]

Anne Milton: A decision on the United Kingdom delegation to the forthcoming United Nations High Level meeting on non-communicable diseases in September 2011 will be made nearer the time. The decision will take into account how best to represent UK interests, given the domestic and global priority attached to tackling non-communicable diseases, as well as the need for efficient use of taxpayers' money in funding overseas trips.

Drugs: Side Effects

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died as a result of an adverse reaction to a licensed drug in each of the last 10 years. [53981]

Mr Simon Burns: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme—the Yellow Card Scheme. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of UK spontaneous suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA during the last 10 years with a fatal outcome.

	Number of reports
2001	647
2002	663
2003	729
2004	856
2005	1,036
2006	954
2007	1,037
2008	1,298
2009	1,191
2010	1,451

It should be noted that these data represent all UK spontaneous suspected ADR reports with a fatal outcome received through the Yellow Card Scheme. The data cannot be stratified according to licensed or unlicensed medicines.

Fertility: Medical Treatments

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health authorities have fertility treatment policies which exclude from NHS-funded fertility treatment couples with any living children from the current relationship or any past relationships of either partner. [54315]

Anne Milton: Information about whether primary care trusts (PCTs) fund in vitro fertilisation treatment for couples that have living children from their current or past relationships is not collected by the Department.

It is for PCTs to make commissioning decisions based on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers, in order to meet their statutory responsibilities.

General Practitioners: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential implications for North Yorkshire of the introduction of GP commissioning; and if he will make a statement. [53928]

Mr Simon Burns: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" described plans to establish a comprehensive system of general practitioner (GP) consortia to commission most national health service services, supported by and accountable to a new independent NHS Commissioning Board. The impact assessment that was published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill in January outlined further the implications of introducing commissioning consortia.

In addition, NHS Yorkshire and the Humber has commissioned a review into how GP commissioners can best use resources for improved health services in the North Yorkshire area. This review is due to conclude in the summer.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of compliance by GPs with his Department's guidance on the use of premium line telephone numbers for GP surgeries; and if he will make a statement. [54870]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the level of compliance by general practitioners with the Department's guidance on the use of premium line telephone numbers is not collected centrally.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the guidance and directions issued on 21 December 2009.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the private health care market in England of removing the private patient income cap; [54047]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on patients in NHS foundation trusts of removing the cap on private patient income. [54048]

Mr Simon Burns: The Command Paper, "Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps", and the impact assessments for the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 consider the effect of removing the private patient cap for national health service foundation trusts.

Herbal Medicine: EU Law

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many products have been issued with formal registration approvals under the terms of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and how many applications for such registration have been received but not yet granted. [54080]

Mr Simon Burns: As at 28 April 2011 the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency had received 211 applications to register products under the traditional herbal registration scheme. Of these, 105 had so far been granted a registration and the remainder were under assessment.

Hospital: Waiting Lists

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients waiting longer than 18 weeks have been offered redress under the NHS constitution in the latest period for which figures are available. [54858]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS constitution right is for patients

> "to access services within maximum waiting times, or for the NHS to take all reasonable steps to offer you a range of alternative providers if this is not possible".

The Department does not collect information centrally on patients who wait longer than 18 weeks who have asked to exercise their right to redress under the NHS constitution. Average waiting times from general practitioner (GP) referral to start of consultant-led treatment are broadly stable. In February 2011, the median time waited from GP referral to start of consultant-led treatment for patients admitted to hospital was 9.0 weeks, and for patients whose treatment did not require an admission, it was 3.5 weeks.

Influenza: Vaccination

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of NHS healthcare workers received an influenza vaccination in the last 12 months; and what steps he is taking to increase the number that have had a vaccination. [53980]

Anne Milton: Provisional data covering the period from September 2010 to February 2011 indicate that 359,080 frontline healthcare workers were vaccinated against influenza in England. This represents an uptake rate of 34.7%.

The chief medical officer wrote to the national health service on 14 March seeking assurance that plans are in place to significantly improve vaccine uptake among this group next winter. Later this month the Department will publish the Seasonal Flu Plan which will state that NHS organisations should ensure that appropriate measures are in place to offer flu vaccination to their frontline health and social care workers.

The Department will run an NHS staff vaccination communications campaign in partnership with external stakeholders in 2011-12. The campaign will be designed to support local teams, ensure consistency of message, share best practice and harness clinical and professional leadership at both national and local levels.

Malnutrition

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to reduce the effects of malnutrition since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [53933]

(2) with reference to the quality standards in the NHS Operating Framework 2011-12, what steps his Department is taking to develop standards for *(a)* nutrition in hospitals for young people, *(b)* intravenous fluid therapy in hospitalised adult patients and *(c)* pressure ulcers; [53946]

(3) if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of treating malnutrition in England in each year since 2000; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost per hospital episode of treating preventable malnutrition; [53948]

(4) how many people resident in a care home were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital with a diagnosis of malnutrition in England in each year since 2000; [53949]

(5) whether he plans to introduce indicators in the national component of the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation scheme to encourage a reduction in levels of malnutrition; and if he will make a statement; [53950]

(6) what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of malnutrition in *(a)* the community, *(b)* acute healthcare settings and *(c)* care homes; [53951]

(7) what steps he is taking to improve the quality of data collected on malnutrition; [53952]

(8) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* prevalence and *(b)* costs of malnutrition in England; [53953]

(9) what reasons the failure to prevent a patient becoming malnourished is not considered a never event by the NHS; [53954]

(10) what arrangements are in place to carry out nutritional screening of patients on admission to *(a)* NHS hospitals and *(b)* care homes; [53955]

(11) what steps he plans to take to improve nutritional standards in care homes; [53956]

(12) what proportion of older people in NHS hospitals were malnourished *(a)* on admission and *(b)* at discharge in the latest period for which figures are available; [53957]

(13) what steps his Department is taking to prevent *(a)* older people becoming malnourished in hospital and *(b)* their condition worsening during their stay in hospital; [53958]

(14) how many primary care trusts had implemented the guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on nutritional support in adults in the latest period for which information is available; [53960]

(15) what assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* the work of the Better Hospital Food Panel and *(b)* the disbanding of that Panel on the level of malnutrition among patients in hospitals. [54049]

Paul Burstow: The majority of Commissioning Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) goals are locally agreed and commissioners can already choose to use the CQUIN framework to reward providers for ambitious improvements in nutritional care. Examples of locally agreed CQUIN schemes as well as a list of exemplar CQUIN goals are available on the NHS Institute's website.

Despite a number of initiatives by the last Government there is a lack of data against which progress can be measured. No routine collections were commissioned to provide:

Data on the number of people resident in a care home who were admitted to and discharged from hospital with a diagnosis of malnutrition in England;

Specific data on the prevalence and costs of malnutrition or the local arrangements that are in place to carry out nutritional screening in England; and

Information on the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) that have implemented the guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on nutritional support in adults.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre is able to extract some information pertaining to nutrition from Hospital Episode Statistics data. Annual inspections of food quality and service are undertaken by Patient Environment Action Teams.

"Never events" are defined as serious, largely preventable patient safety incidents that should not occur if the available preventative measures have been implemented by health care providers. The last Government identified eight "never events". The coalition Government undertook to extend the list and following an engagement exercise with NHS organisations, patients, the public, clinical bodies, clinicians and others with an interest, expanded it to 25. Failure to prevent a patient from becoming malnourished was not included in the expanded list published in February. The list will be kept under review.

The decision to close the Better Hospital Food Programme (BHF) was taken by the last Government in April 2006, and formal monitoring of the programme ceased in 2004. Funding previously allocated centrally was passed directly to the NHS to allow it to develop local services.

The BHF legacy includes a series of resources which are available on the Hospital Caterers Association website.

The Government set out their ambitions for developing a library of quality standards in their White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published in July 2010. The NHS Operating Framework 2011-12 published in December 2010 set out the Government's plans to commission the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop quality standards on nutrition in hospital, intravenous fluid therapy and pressure ulcers. A full list can be found on the NICE website. NICE has not yet published a timetable for the development of these quality standards; however, we understand that it intends to prepare them over the next two years.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were recorded as being malnourished *(a)* on admission and *(b)* at discharge (i) in England and (ii) in each strategic health authority in each year since 1997-98. [53947]

Paul Burstow: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the report "Care and Compassion" by the Health Service Ombudsman for England, what progress his Department is making in supporting the Care Quality Commission in establishing a national roll-out of spot inspections to check specifically for malnutrition. [53959]

Paul Burstow: The Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has asked the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to carry out a series of inspections of the care provided to elderly patients in national health service hospitals. CQC will inspect around 100 hospital sites and is due to complete its programme of dignity and nutrition inspections by the end of May. CQC will publish a report of each inspection as well as a report setting out the overall findings of the programme of inspections in due course.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training is provided to nurses to identify malnutrition, including in vulnerable groups such as older people. [53961]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of healthcare education is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies. Their role is that of custodian of quality standards in education and practice. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), which is the regulatory body with responsibility for nursing, sets standards for nursing and midwifery education programmes.

All nursing students undertaking pre-registration nursing programmes will learn about nutritional care, including the assessment and monitoring of nutritional status. The NMC has worked closely with organisations such as MENCAP, Age UK, Rethink, and the Alzheimer's Society in the development of new (2010) standards, guidance and advice. The 2010 standards are available at:

http://standards.nmc-uk.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx

The new standards will be introduced from September 2011.

As part of these new standards the NMC has developed guidance on nutrition and fluid management within the essential skills clusters. The NMC essential skills clusters are available at:

http://standards.nmc-uk.org/Documents/Annexe3_%20ESCs_16092010.pdf

Similar arrangements are in place to ensure that adequate nutritional status is maintained in those pre-registration nursing programmes approved under previous (2004) standards.

The NMC also published in March 2009 guidance for the care of older people, which applies to all registered nurses not just nursing students. This guidance is available at:

www.nmc-uk.org/General-public/Older-people-and-their-carers/

Medical Equipment: Hygiene

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State for Health of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 429, if he will provide details of the research on which his Department is awaiting results before it can make progress on prion decontamination of surgical and medical instruments. [54897]

Mr Simon Burns: Through its Policy Research Programme, the Department is commissioning a new programme of research relating to prion decontamination of surgical and medical instruments. Results when available will inform policy on decontamination.

Medical Equipment: Scotland

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake an evaluation of the practice in Scotland of using single-use tonsillectomy tools compared to the practice in England of no longer so doing. [54814]

Anne Milton: The Department has not undertaken and currently has no plans to undertake such an evaluation.

To date there have been no variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease cases associated with any surgical procedure including tonsillectomy.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the NHS on follow-up care for British citizens who had undergone *(a)* cosmetic surgery and *(b)* all types of surgery abroad in 2009-10. [54082]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Monitor

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that Monitor places a higher priority on safeguarding NHS providers than promoting competition. [54046]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are taking the opportunity of a natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill to pause, listen, reflect and improve the legislation. Choice and Competition is one of four areas of focus. Under the proposals currently set out in the Health and Social Care Bill, Monitor's overriding duty is to protect and promote the interests of people who use health care services.

NHS Foundation Trusts

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 720W, on NHS: legislative framework, when he expects the work programme for the foundation trust pipeline to be published. [54864]

Mr Simon Burns: Work is continuing at national, local and regional level to determine the actions that will be required to support all national health service trusts to achieve foundation trust status by April 2014. Agreements with NHS trusts are being finalised and will be published once this process is complete. The agreements will set out the actions required by each NHS trust to meet the April 2014 deadline.

NHS Future Forum

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the NHS Future Forum are from the private sector. [54760]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no members of the NHS Future Forum from the private sector. However, the Forum is engaging with the private sector along with all other interested groups.

Details of the members of the NHS Future Forum are available on the Modernisation of Health and Care website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer to the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 3-4, on NHS reform, how many of the 119 events organised centrally had been organised prior to the announcement of the NHS Future Forum. [54868]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Future Forum members and Ministers are participating in a number of meetings and events across the country to ensure as many voices are heard as possible during the natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament.

To minimise disruption to practising clinicians and to other stakeholders, the Government and NHS Future Forum have been invited by a range of organisations to use a number of prescheduled meeting times. These include meetings and events with national stakeholders, front-line national health service staff and patients. Where necessary, the proposed agendas for these meetings have been altered to reflect the listening exercise to ensure there is opportunity for explicit discussion around the key themes.

Where suitable events do not already exist, supplementary meetings including a series of regional events for patient representatives and the voluntary sector have been arranged.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer to the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 3-4, on NHS reform, what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* attendance list was of each of the 119 events. [54869]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Future Forum is participating in a number of meetings and events throughout the listening period. There will be in excess of 150 events over the eight week period, involving a wide range of participants from across the national health service, local government, third sector and beyond. The location of these events will largely be determined by the host organisation and as such, they will be held all over the country.

We will publish a weekly update on the activity of Forum members, including who they have heard from, which will be available through the Modernisation of Health and Care website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare

Details of all the listening events held, including dates, location and audience, will be released alongside the NHS Future Forum's report.

NHS: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition his Department uses of the term "equity" with regard to health care provision in its Public Health White Paper; and how this definition was determined. [53945]

Mr Simon Burns: The public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", set out that "Directors of Public Health will work with NHS colleagues locally in advising on how to ensure equal access and equity of outcome across the population". One of the three domains of public health is improving services, which the Faculty of Public Health defines as including equity. Directors of Public Health will advise national health service commissioners to assist them in commissioning services in such a way as to promote equal access for all and so that the design of services acts to improve outcomes, aiming to ensure that outcomes are just, fair and ultimately equally good for the whole population. This will act to reduce health inequalities, which is a key aim of the Government's proposals.

In line with the requirements of the public sector Equality Duty we would expect commissioners and providers to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, victimisation and harassment; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date Monitor issued its most recent indication to hospitals and hospital trusts of the savings required in the current financial year to meet their targets and to fulfil the requirements placed on them; and if he will make a statement. [54492]

Mr Simon Burns: We are informed by the chairman of Monitor (the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that it wrote to national health service trusts, foundation trusts and strategic health authorities to set out its revised financial assumptions on 27 April 2011.

Monitor periodically reviews its financial assumptions based on fiscal, economic and policy announcements—usually after the publication of the Operating Framework for the NHS in England, at the beginning of the new financial year.

NHS: Negligence

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which successor entities will be responsible for funding the costs of claims for medical or clinical negligence that are current but not yet settled following the abolition of primary care trusts. [54813]

Mr Simon Burns: The allocation of the liabilities of primary care trusts will be dealt with using the powers in the Health and Social Care Bill 2011, which is subject to passage through Parliament.

NHS: Private Sector

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the financial benefits to the NHS in England of buying in care and health provision from private hospitals in 2010-11; [54275]

(2) what arrangements exist for the purchase of private health care by the NHS. [54276]

Mr Simon Burns: The purchase of health care by the national health service from independent sector providers takes place as a result of:

patient choice, where patients choose the provider that best meets their needs. In these circumstances commissioners reimburse providers at the appropriate national tariff irrespective of organisational type;

procurement by NHS commissioners where they take decisions on the best provider or providers of services for patients and the taxpayer; and

existing providers of services subcontracting to other providers, including those from the independent sector.

Information is not collected centrally on the financial benefit of these local decisions.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effect on existing NHS service providers of allowing any qualified provider to provide NHS services; [54292]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effects of discontinuing the policy that the NHS is the preferred provider for NHS services in England. [54293]

Mr Simon Burns: A detailed assessment and evaluation of greater choice and competition are set out in the impact assessment published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill 2011. Based on current evidence, the Government would expect Any Qualified Provider to incentivise all providers to improve and tailor their services to meet the needs of patients.

As set out in the Bill impact assessment, a recent large scale qualitative study of the impact of the choice reforms in the national health service suggests that the potential benefits of competition are not being realised to anywhere near the extent possible because of a number of barriers and institutional rigidities: (Brereton and Gubb) "Refusing Treatment: The NHS and market-based reform". Civitas, October 2010). This can found at:

www.civitas.org.uk/nhs/refusingtreatment_commentary.php

In addition, two recent quantitative studies on the impact of the introduction of choice and competition into the NHS from 2006 indicate that competition impacts positively on quality. The July 2010 study by health economists Martin Gaynor, Rodrigo Moreno-Serra and Carol Propper can be found at:

www.bristol.ac.uk/cmpo/publications/papers/2010/wp242.pdf

The January 2010 study: "Does Hospital Competition Save Lives? Evidence from the NHS Patient Choice Reforms", by Cooper, Gibbons, Jones and McGuire, London School of Economics, Working Paper 16/2010 can be found at:

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/28584/1/WP16.pdf

As part of the current listening exercise, we are focusing on patient choice and competition to understand better how they can drive improvements in the NHS.

A copy of the Health and Social Care Bill impact assessment has already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's proposals for NHS reform, if he will make an assessment for benchmarking purposes of the effects of GP budgetholding in the US on *(a)* access to and *(b)* quality of health care provision. [53990]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no plans to carry out such an assessment. The impact assessment that accompanies the Health and Social Care Bill sets out the Government's assessment of the available evidence on general practitioner-led commissioning. We propose to place a duty on consortia of continuous quality improvement in terms of health outcomes. The NHS Commissioning Board, supported by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, will develop a Commissioning Outcomes Framework so that there is clear, publicly available information on the quality of health care services commissioned by consortia. Measures from the Commissioning Outcomes Framework will be used by the board to hold commissioning consortia to account for the quality of services they commission and the health outcomes they achieve for patients.

Nutrition

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve standards of nutrition of residents of *(a)* care homes and *(b)* hospitals. [54417]

Paul Burstow: The coalition Government recognise the importance of good nutrition and hydration for wellbeing, health maintenance and recovery for people of all ages in any care setting. The Department is currently supporting a number of programmes aimed at improving standards of nutrition and hydration including the:

Development of a national clinical audit of food and nutrition that will span both health and social care and provide a measure of compliance with NICE guidance. This work is being taken forward by a collaboration of Diabetes and Nutritional Sciences Department and national Nursing Research Unit at King's College London and King's Health Partners;

Essence of Care benchmarking system which covers all aspects of fundamental care including food and drink;

Productive Ward Series which enables nurses to spend more time engaged in direct patient care;

Confidence in Caring Programme, which helps front-line nurses improve their interaction with patients;

'Red tray' scheme, which ensures that patients at risk of poor nutrition are identified for special attention;

Introduction in October 2010 of new essential standards of safety and quality in service provision that all health and social care providers registered with the CQC must comply with, which includes requirements in respect of food and hydration;

High Impact Action (HIA) work, "Keeping Patients Nourished" led by the chief nurses from the 10 strategic health authorities has identified older people as a priority area of care upon which nurses could facilitate progress, making support materials available to help nurses deliver; and

During their training, all student nurses learn about nutritional care, including the assessment and monitoring of nutritional status.

The Health Service Ombudsman's Report, "Care and Compassion?", published in February highlighted concerns about nutrition arising from complaints from the public. In response the Department commissioned a series of unannounced inspections by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to shed light on the level of care provided to older patients. The CQC will publish a report at the end of these inspections.

In "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes of public health", the coalition Government proposed that under the new arrangements for public health, Public Health England, within the Department of Health, would take responsibility for running national nutrition programmes, whilst local authorities would take on responsibility for locally-led programmes. The results of the consultation will be published later this year.

Plastic Surgery

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the quality of information given to cosmetic surgery patients prior to surgery. [54065]

Mr Simon Burns: Guidance from the General Medical Council (GMC) makes clear that all doctors are responsible for ensuring that patients have sufficient information to make an informed decision about the treatments offered to them. This is particularly important in the case of treatments carried out for purely cosmetic reasons, that is to say where there is no underlying health need. The GMC's guidance is supplemented by the publication "Good medical practice in cosmetic surgery" which was developed by the Independent Healthcare Advisory Service in collaboration with the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, the British Association of

Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, and others leading organisations in this field.

Information for patients about cosmetic surgery in general and about the most common cosmetic procedures is available from NHS Choices, from the website "Patient UK", from the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, and from other readily available sources.

Plastic Surgery: Regulation

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is taking steps to improve the regulation of cosmetic surgery. [54023]

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the regulation of the cosmetic surgery industry following the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death review of the organisational structures surrounding cosmetic surgery. [54067]

Mr Simon Burns: The regulation of cosmetic surgery has already been tightened up since the fieldwork carried out by the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death. Since October 2011 all cosmetic surgery providers, whether in the national health service or in the independent sector, have been subject to regulation by the Care Quality Commission against requirements set out in regulations. The Commission has tough enforcement powers and can take prompt actions where providers fail to comply with the safety and quality requirements.

In addition, individual doctors are now subject to the oversight of a "responsible officer" in respect to all aspects of their clinical practice, including any cosmetic procedures carried out in the private sector. When medical revalidation is introduced, all doctors will be periodically assessed for their competence across the whole area of their clinical practice.

Sex: Health Education

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to raise sexual health awareness following the expiration of the National Health Strategy and the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. [54034]

Anne Milton: The Public Health White Paper highlighted the development of a suite of documents which would set out in more detail the Government's approach to tackling key determinants of poor health and health inequalities, one of which would cover sexual health.

The Department is currently working closely with stakeholders and experts in the field in developing a new sexual health policy document. This document will look at holistic sexual health needs across the population while still allowing a focus in on specific issues relating to those who are at higher risk of poor sexual health. We expect to publish the document later this year.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 774W, on tobacco: sales, what the arrangements are that will comply with the Government's one-in, one-out policy on regulation; and which regulations have been identified to be removed. [53944]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department scrutinises all measures, as part of the flow of regulation, to identify outs, for the one-in, one-out regulatory management system. This is a continuous process. The Department is leading the "Healthy living and social care" theme of the Red Tape Challenge, launched by the Prime Minister on 7 April 2011 and is actively reviewing its stock of regulation, impacting business and civil society organisations. This theme goes live on the Red Tape Challenge website on 23 June.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 10 May 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Equal Pay

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 695W, on equal pay, what the results of the most recent equal pay audit of employees of the House of Commons Service are. [54528]

John Thurso: A draft equal pay audit report is complete and the House will be consulting the trade unions on the findings during May. It is expected that a final version of the report, including a summary version for wider distribution, will be available in June.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54629]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April 2010, my Department has not paid *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs or *(c)* defendant costs in respect of any civil claims brought in 2010-11.

In answering this question, the Department has assumed that the term "civil claims" refers to claims issued in England and Wales, in the courts of civil jurisdiction (the High Court and the county courts). The figures provided do not therefore include employment-related claims pursued through the employment tribunals.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has provided advice to the London borough of Bromley to assist in its assessment of BT's plans for superfast broadband in the area. [54583]

Mr Vaizey: There has been no advice offered to any local authority about British Telecom's plans or any other private supplier by the Secretary of State, or the Department.

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what advice he has given to local authorities on the provision of superfast broadband services by *(a)* BT and *(b)* other providers. [54584]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK published guidance on 7 March for local authorities in England on local broadband plans. It has also provided data and set up discussion forums for local authorities preparing local broadband plans.

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on measures to ensure that local authorities do not use the planning regulations to resist the optimum development and availability of superfast broadband services. [54585]

Mr Vaizey: Discussions have taken place in the context of Budget 2011 and the Growth Review about the need to ensure that the planning regime supports superfast broadband rollout. The Government have committed to reforming the planning system to support economic growth and work on that is ongoing.

National Archives

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons individuals are not able to take out a subscription to access the National Archives online. [54379]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

As part of its strategy for making its collections accessible in digital format, the National Archives works with a variety of partners who make their material accessible online, nearly all of whose services are available at a variety of subscription rates to individual users. However, commercial academic partners who produce themed collections of primary historical sources from the National Archives collection currently only sell their editions to university and public libraries. The National Archives is actively encouraging these publishers to make such collections as "State Papers Online" available via individual subscriptions. These services can also be viewed at many public libraries which also purchase collections from these academic publishers, and the services are free of charge within their reading rooms. In addition, all the records which are available online from National Archives are available free of charge in the reading rooms at Kew.

The National Archives' internally-funded service through which original records can be downloaded online, "Documents Online", is currently only available on a pay-per-view basis to individuals and by annual subscription to institutions such as university and public libraries. However, a project is under way to provide an individual subscription model, work on which is currently expected to be finished in 2012.

Ofcom

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on the estimated opportunity cost of use of the 900 MHz and

1800 MHz spectrum; and what estimate he has made of the level set for administered incentive pricing of that spectrum. [54377]

Mr Vaizey: Ministers have not had any recent discussion with Ofcom on the opportunity cost of the use of the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz spectrum. The current level of administered incentive pricing for the 900 MHz spectrum is £25 million per annum and for the 1800 MHz spectrum is £40 million per annum. In December 2010 I directed Ofcom to revise the annual licence fees applying to the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz spectrum after completion of the auction of the 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz spectrum, so that they reflect the full market value of the spectrum, having particular regard to the sums bid for licences in the auction. I have made no estimate as to what the level of those future annual licence fees might be.

Olympic Games 2012

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many tickets for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics his Department plans to purchase for use by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials; for which events; and at what cost. [54294]

Hugh Robertson: Government have bid for 9,000 Olympic Games tickets in total; some of these will be used by Government for liaison with international and domestic political and business leaders, dignitaries and others with a close connection to the Games. We are currently considering how best Ministers can promote UK plc to this audience but, at this stage, the final range of events, dates and number of tickets to be purchased has still to be decided.

3,000 of the Government's bid will be made available to staff who have been heavily involved in the London 2012 project. All eligible staff have been invited to enter a ballot to purchase one pair of tickets, which they will pay for at face value.

Policy on tickets for the Paralympics is currently being considered in advance of the launch of sales later this year.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what advice the Government Equalities Office provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in that Office. [52801]

Lynne Featherstone: Government Equalities Office welcomes interest from people wishing to work as an intern, undertake a work experience placement or as a volunteer.

We ask that individuals provide a written request outlining the opportunity they require together with a copy of their curriculum vitae.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity: Export Credit Guarantees

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has provided information to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) on the effects on biodiversity of businesses supported by the ECGD. [54371]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not provided information to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) on the effects on biodiversity of businesses supported by the ECGD.

Forests: Developing Countries

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department is providing funding to the reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries programme. [51986]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* DEFRA is responsible for £100 million for forestry in support of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), under the UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund that was announced in the 2010 spending review.

Peat

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will introduce mandatory targets for the gardening and horticulture industry to phase out the use of peat-based composts; [54270]

(2) if she will introduce a levy on retail peat-based composts. [54271]

Richard Benyon: A public consultation on future policy to further reduce and eventually phase out the horticultural use of peat in England closed on 11 March. The consultation proposed that a voluntary, partnership approach is followed to deliver phase-out targets, including for the amateur gardener market and professional horticulture, and sets out the rationale for doing so. Consultation responses are now being analysed, and will inform the development of a future policy framework.

Sewers: Private Sector

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date she expects to publish the regulations relating to transfer of private drains and sewers; and if she will make a statement. [54394]

Richard Benyon: Draft regulations to effect the transfer of private sewers and lateral drains that connect to the public sewerage system were laid before Parliament on 26 April and are available online at:

www.legislation.gov.uk

Water: South East England

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to ensure the provision of a sufficient supply of water to meet the needs of people living in London and the south-east in the next 10 years. [54380]

Richard Benyon: All water companies in England and Wales are required to maintain 25-year Water Resources Management Plans which describe how each company aims to secure a sustainable demand-supply balance over the period. Water companies follow a "twin track" approach to managing supplies, considering both demand management actions and the need for new or enhanced supply to ensure they can deliver secure and sustainable supplies of water to their customers. The current plans cover the period 2010 to 2035.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Conditions of Employment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the levels of *(a)* stress and *(b)* potential fatigue experienced by pilots on standby duty. [53934]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has assessed the level of fatigue that could be accrued by pilots on standby duty and the extent to which hours spent on standby should count towards duty time limits. The effect on pilot fatigue of possible stress arising from standby duty was considered as part of the CAA's assessment. The results of the assessment are reflected in the requirements of CAP 371: Avoidance of Fatigue in Air Crews.

Car Sharing

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had on the promotion of car sharing schemes. [54407]

Norman Baker: In October I held a roundtable discussion with car sharing operators to discuss how the Department for Transport and the industry could further the uptake of car sharing across England. In January, the Department published the "Creating Growth: Cutting Carbon" White Paper, which made clear the Government's commitment to sustainable travel, including car sharing. Departmental officials continue to work with local authorities and the car sharing industry to promote car sharing and support operators.

Invalid Vehicles

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to his Department's document, "Carriage of Mobility Scooters on Public Transport: Feasibility Study, 2006", when he plans to publish his Department's guidance on the dimensions and weight of mobility scooters suitable for use on public transport; whether he has had discussions with the train operating companies serving the Brighton and Hove area on the compatibility of their policies on the carriage of four wheel mobility scooters with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [53003]

Norman Baker: We are currently in discussion with representatives of transport operators (including the Association of Train Operating Companies), manufacturers and user groups, and will publish guidance on scooters on public transport as soon as possible. Any decision made on scooters being carried on public transport will aim to strike a balance between the needs of a user to maintain independence and the operating constraints of the industry.

Information on existing arrangements, in the meantime, is available through individual operators, whose decisions are based on their own risk assessments.

Motorways

Mr Darling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles there are of managed motorways that allow the use of the hard shoulder at peak times; and where they are located. [54041]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency has converted 42.6 miles of hard shoulder for use during the busiest periods. The locations of these sites are detailed in the following table.

Location	*Length in miles*
M42 J3A-7—Earlswood, west midlands to Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham	21.2
M6 J4-J5—Birmingham to Castle Bromwich, Birmingham	7.8
M6 J8-J10a—Great Barr, Birmingham to Essington, west midlands	13.6

Official Cars: Expenditure

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on the acquisition of new Government cars in the last Parliament; and how much has been spent on such purchases since May 2010. [50981]

Mike Penning: During the period of the last Parliament from 2005-10 the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent £4.1 million on the acquisition of outright purchased and leased new cars for use by Ministers.

Since May 2010 the Government Car and Despatch Agency has spent £3,500 on leased cars for use by Ministers and nothing on the acquisition of outright purchased cars.

All cars in the Government car fleet are on a routine replacement programme determined by the age of the vehicle.

Roads: Accidents

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the likelihood of being *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* injured as a result of a road traffic accident caused by (i) a car, (ii) a goods vehicle and (iii) a cyclist based on the number of accidents each has caused in each of the last 10 years and the extent to which they use the roads; [53983]

(2) what proportion of road traffic accidents that resulted in *(a)* death, *(b)* serious injury and *(c)* slight injury were caused by (i) a car, (ii) a goods vehicle and (iii) a cyclist in each of the last 10 years. [53984]

Mike Penning: No estimates have been made regarding the likelihood of being killed or injured as a result of accidents caused by various vehicle types and the Department for Transport's accident data do not assign blame or collect information on causes of accidents.

However, the information regarding the type of vehicles involved in reported personal injury accidents and their involvement rates by severity of accident per 100 million vehicle miles over last 10 years is published in table 10 of "Reported Road Casualties Great Britain—the annual report". Copies of the said publication have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. The table can also be downloaded from the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/excel/173025/221412/221549/227755/503336/RCGB09tables1to20.xls

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many cyclists have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in a collision with (i) a car, (ii) a motorcycle, (iii) a goods vehicle, (iv) a bus or coach, (v) another cyclist and (vi) any other vehicle in each of the last 10 years; [53985]

(2) how many pedestrians have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in a collision with (i) a car, (ii) a motorcycle, (iii) a goods vehicle, (iv) a bus or coach, (v) a cyclist and (vi) any other vehicle in each of the last 10 years. [53986]

Mike Penning: The number of reported pedal cyclist casualties, in Great Britain 2000-09, who were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in reported road accidents involving another vehicle is given as follows. Accidents involving more than one vehicle in addition to the pedal cycle are counted against each relevant vehicle type in this table. There will therefore be some double counting within the table. In multi-vehicle accidents, information on the type of collision between the vehicles involved can not be reliably determined.

Pedal cyclists

Accidents involving at least one:	*Cyclist injury*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Car	Killed	58	65	73	69	80	83	93	67	67	61
	Seriously injured	2,059	1,970	1,826	1,809	1,694	1,751	1,804	1,915	1,922	2,051
Motorcycle	Killed	6	7	0	2	2	5	2	1	0	3
	Seriously injured	45	54	52	45	55	43	56	40	29	46
Light goods vehicle	Killed	58	65	73	69	80	83	93	67	67	61
	Seriously injured	2,059	1,970	1,826	1,809	1,694	1,751	1,804	1,915	1,922	2,051
Heavy goods vehicle	Killed	31	33	31	26	22	26	25	33	27	19
	Seriously injured	121	104	100	82	91	80	92	92	85	77
Bus or coach	Killed	7	6	4	4	7	10	4	6	7	4
	Seriously injured	68	64	63	66	43	56	61	62	61	65
Pedal cycle	Killed	127	138	130	114	134	148	146	136	115	104
	Seriously injured	2,643	2,540	2,320	2,297	2,174	2,212	2,296	2,428	2,450	2,606
Other/unknown vehicle	Killed	4	3	2	2	1	3	2	4	2	3
	Seriously injured	34	37	29	22	33	21	22	31	49	33
Total pedal cyclist casualties	Killed	127	138	130	114	134	148	146	136	115	104
	Seriously injured	2,643	2,540	2,320	2,297	2,174	2,212	2,296	2,428	2,450	2,606

The number of reported pedestrian casualties, in Great Britain 2000-09, who were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in reported road accidents by the vehicle they collided with is given as follows:

Pedestrians

Vehicle	*Pedestrian injury*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Car	Killed	590	531	534	533	462	470	471	433	391	353
	Seriously injured	7,161	6,828	6,496	5,886	5,552	5,251	5,236	5,064	4,909	4,528
Motorcycle	Killed	44	31	34	27	27	23	28	32	21	9
	Seriously injured	369	364	333	314	283	261	268	257	220	181
Light goods vehicle	Killed	47	59	41	48	43	55	45	46	30	22
	Seriously injured	382	384	320	332	329	314	280	331	300	277

Pedestrians

Vehicle	*Pedestrian injury*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
HGV	Killed	101	114	92	91	76	65	69	75	72	65
	Seriously injured	206	186	175	179	141	159	150	150	154	127
Bus or coach	Killed	60	79	55	57	52	47	53	50	38	40
	Seriously injured	356	351	384	343	356	349	335	337	332	285
Pedal cycle	Killed	3	0	4	4	1	3	3	4	1	0
	Seriously injured	66	60	47	45	49	61	47	48	52	66
Other/unknown Vehicle	Killed	12	12	15	14	10	8	6	6	19	11
	Seriously injured	101	65	101	60	97	63	60	91	103	81
Total pedestrian casualties	Killed	857	826	775	774	671	671	675	646	572	500
	Seriously injured	8,641	8,238	7,856	7,159	6,807	6,458	6,376	6,278	6,070	5,545

JUSTICE

Claims: Accidents

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to Annex A of the impact assessment of the cumulative Jackson proposals, how many and what proportion of the road traffic accident cases in the data set *(a)* predated and *(b)* postdated the road traffic accident claims process; and if he will make a statement. [54550]

Mr Djanogly: The dataset analysed does not include the date at which the claim was settled, therefore it is not possible to identify those cases which predated or postdated the introduction of the road traffic accident claims process.

Claims: Personal Injury

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effects on non-personal injury litigants of the removal of after-the-event insurance recoverability in the absence of a qualified one-way costs shifting alternative as proposed for personal injury claims; and if he will make a statement. [54457]

Mr Djanogly: "Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response" was published on 29 March 2011. An updated impact assessment was published alongside the response.

Courts: Conditional Fee Agreements

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases brought on appeal to *(a)* a circuit judge in the county court, *(b)* the High Court, *(c)* the Court of Appeal and *(d)* the House of Lords and Supreme Court were supported by (i) a conditional fee agreement and (ii) after-the-event insurance in each of the last three years; [54378]

(2) how many personal injury claims were *(a)* issued and *(b)* tried by each county court currently scheduled for closure in each of the last three years; [54458]

(3) how many and what proportion of claims processed through the Road Traffic Accident Claims portal were funded by *(a)* before-the-event insurance, *(b)* conditional fee agreements and *(c)* other forms of funding in the latest period for which figures are available; [54459]

(4) how many claims proceeding through the Road Traffic Accident Claims portal have been concluded at stage 3 in each of the last three years; and how many and what proportion of claims were awaiting disposal at stage 3 on the latest date for which figures are available. [54460]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the numbers of claims for an unspecified amount of money that were *(a)* issued and *(b)* tried by each county court that is currently scheduled for closure.

The following table shows these figures for each year between 2008 and 2010.

Number of claims for unspecified amounts of money which were issued and tried[1] by county courts currently scheduled for closure; 2008-10

	Claims issued			*Claims tried[2, 3]*		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Aberdare	108	117	111	14	10	22
Ashford	161	205	206	37	30	28
Bishop Auckland	68	52	60	5	6	5
Burton-on-Trent	217	208	163	13	13	6
Cheltenham	346	375	417	18	7	11
Chepstow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chorley	394	429	475	0	0	1
Consett	31	41	49	5	5	5
Dewsbury	251	478	420	62	89	90

Number of claims for unspecified amounts of money which were issued and tried[1] by county courts currently scheduled for closure: 2008-10

	Claims issued			Claims tried[2, 3]		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Epsom	165	214	234	27	45	46
Evesham	41	49	71	8	8	1
Goole	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grantham	154	152	168	0	1	3
Gravesend	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlow	399	301	255	36	29	31
Haywards Heath	97	99	96	16	18	12
Hitchin	161	192	173	14	8	10
Huntingdon	73	60	36	0	3	1
Ilford	476	935	586	96	81	56
Keighley	106	109	202	18	19	21
Kidderminster	161	157	120	20	17	7
Lowestoft	101	146	109	8	9	4
Ludlow	13	20	11	0	1	4
Melton Mowbray	31	34	46	1	2	1
Newark	37	2	1	1	1	1
Newbury	79	100	67	1	0	2
Northwich	128	162	234	9	12	25
Oswestry	54	64	48	6	3	0
Penrith	45	62	38	1	0	0
Penzance	54	57	57	11	7	10
Pontefract	445	534	622	43	22	38
Pontypool	100	121	94	4	18	13
Poole	259	280	218	31	42	29
Rawtenstall	2,513	1,671	1,281	2	0	0
Redditch	109	133	124	24	23	34
Rhyl	108	230	174	30	29	27
Rugby	104	91	108	14	5	0
Runcorn	73	93	58	9	19	12
Salford	3,327	4,185	5,355	125	86	75
Shrewsbury	187	175	197	28	14	19
Skegness	0	0	3	0	0	0
Southport	917	1,199	929	58	72	74
Stourbridge	172	221	132	23	16	2
Stratford	32	35	41	6	5	2
Tamworth	128	146	127	12	1	4
Trowbridge	221	247	231	23	12	22
Wellingborough	59	72	56	3	4	1
Whitehaven	89	103	88	8	18	14
Worksop	1,943	637	3	4	6	1
Total	14,737	14,993	14,294	876	818	770

[1] The courts which "own" the cases at the trial stage. These may not be the same courts as where the trials are actually located.

[2] Includes both claims which involve trials and small claim hearings.

[3] For cases with more than one trial/small claim hearing, only the last trial/small claim hearing is counted.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

The Road Traffic Accident protocol involving the claims portal was implemented in April 2010. The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally which specifically relate to personal injury claims or trials, or to the funding arrangements for personal injury claimants whether by conditional fee agreements or after-the-event insurance. Personal injury cases including those at stage 3 of the Road Traffic Accident protocol are logged on to the administrative computer systems. However these cannot be accurately distinguished from other types of cases brought for either an unspecified amount of money (where not under the protocol) or under Part 8 (where under the protocol). While appeals are recorded on IT systems, information about how they are supported whether by conditional fee agreements or after-the-event insurance is not held electronically.

Courts: Domestic Violence

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has had with the Minister for Women and Equalities on the closure of specialist domestic violence courts. [54475]

Mr Djanogly: There have not been any meetings with the Minister for Women and Equalities regarding the closure of specialist domestic violence courts. Changes to the court estate were subject to public consultation during the summer of 2010 and decisions on the closure of courts were announced in December 2010.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* constituencies and *(b)* local authority areas will not house a specialist domestic violence court at the end of the court closure programme; [54476]

(2) how many specialist domestic violence courts he plans to *(a)* open and *(b)* close in each of the next three years. [54622]

Mr Djanogly: The provision of courts in England and Wales is not determined by constituency or local authority area boundaries. Many courts, and any specialist domestic violence courts (SDVCs) they might house, serve a number of constituencies and local authority areas and many of these are served by more than one court.

There are, at present, no plans to open any new specialist domestic violence court systems (SDVCs). As at the end of March 2011 there were 143 SDVC systems housed across 176 magistrates courts in England and Wales. Following the closure of those courts announced in December last year, there will be an SDVC at over 150 courts out of a total of 236 magistrates courts.

The court estate reform programme will mean the closure of 23 magistrates courts which house an SDVC. However, the closure of a courthouse is not the same as the closure of an SDVC system.

In the case of the following seven court closures, it is proposed that the work of the existing SDVC will be moved to another courthouse that is part of an accredited SDVC system:

Acton magistrates court—work moves to the SDVC systems at Uxbridge magistrates court and Feltham magistrates court;

Barry magistrates court—work moves to the SDVC system at Cardiff magistrates court;

Hemel Hempstead magistrates court—work moves to the SDVC system at St Albans magistrates court;

Knowsley magistrates court work moves to the SDVC system at Liverpool magistrates court;

Salford magistrates court work moves to the SDVC system at Manchester magistrates court;

Rochdale magistrates court work moves to the SDVC system at Bury magistrates court;

Tamworth magistrates court work moves to the SDVC system at Burton magistrates court.

In the case of the following 12 court closures, the closing courthouse is only one within a system and so the system remains operational at other courthouses:

Aberdare magistrates court—the Rhondda Cynon Taff SDVC system will continue at Pontypridd magistrates court;

Daventry magistrates court—the Northamptonshire SDVC system will continue at Corby, Kettering and Northampton magistrates courts;

Goole magistrates court—the East Riding SDVC system will continue at Beverley and Bridlington magistrates courts;

Dewsbury magistrates court—the Kirklees SDVC system will continue at Huddersfield magistrates court;

Lewes magistrates court—the East Sussex SDVC system will continue at Hastings and Eastbourne magistrates courts;

Pontefract magistrates court—the Wakefield SDVC system will continue at Wakefield magistrates court;

Rugby magistrates court—the Warwickshire SDVC system will continue at Nuneaton and Stratford upon Avon magistrates courts.

Selby magistrates court—the York and Selby SDVC system will continue at York magistrates court;

Towcester magistrates court—the Northamptonshire SDVC system will continue at Corby, Kettering and Northampton magistrates courts;

West Bromwich magistrates court—the Sandwell SDVC system will continue at Warley magistrates court;

Whitehaven magistrates court—the West Cumbria SDVC system will continue at Workington magistrates court;

Haringey magistrates court—the Haringey/Tottenham SDVC system will continue at Enfield magistrates court (to be renamed Tottenham magistrates court as of 1 January 2012).

In the following remaining four cases, closure of the courthouse will involve the transfer of the SDVC work to a court that is currently not part of an accredited SDVC system:

Andover magistrates court to Basingstoke magistrates court;

Alton magistrates court to Andover magistrates court;

Bridgwater magistrates court to Taunton magistrates court;

Grays magistrates court to Basildon magistrates court.

The Ministry and the SDVC National Steering Group will give consideration to whether these courts should become part of an accredited system.

Guidance has been issued by the National Steering Group to all SDVC partnerships to assist them in adapting to the changes presented by the closure of a courthouse within the SDVC system. This is designed to ensure that all partners have been involved in the transfer process, that all operational activities are transferred to the desired location and any challenges this presents are addressed at an early stage. This will ensure a smooth transition to the revised court estate, while maintaining the high level of support for victims of domestic abuse.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many domestic violence cases were heard in each of the last three years at each of the specialist domestic violence courts scheduled for closure. [54623]

Mr Djanogly: Records are not kept centrally on the number of domestic violence cases heard at specialist domestic violence courts.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the savings to accrue through proposed closures of specialist domestic violence courts. [54624]

Mr Djanogly: Savings from court closures are accrued through the closure of a courthouse rather than the closure of any specialist domestic violence court system that may be housed at a courthouse. Savings specifically from the closure of specialist domestic violence court systems at closing courthouses have therefore not been estimated separately.

Estimated gross savings from all court closures announced in December are in the region of £41.5 million over the spending review period. We also hope to achieve £38.5 million in receipts from the sale of assets.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the longest journey from a home address by public transport that a victim of domestic violence would have to travel to get to a specialist domestic violence court once all courts earmarked for closure have closed; [54663]

(2) what consideration was given to *(a)* the potential distance a victim of domestic violence would have to travel from a home address to reach a specialist domestic violence court, *(b)* concerns of such a person about travelling long distances away from home and *(c)* any associated concerns when determining which courts to close; and if he will make a statement. [54664]

Mr Djanogly: The court estate consultation response documents detail the percentage of the population in each area estimated to be within a 60-minute public transport commute of their local court, before and after closures. It is not possible to assess the particular impact on victims of specific crimes.

Following the closure of those courts announced in December last year, there will be a SDVC at over 150 courts out of a total of 236 magistrates courts.

The equality impact assessments (EIAs) that accompany each of the 16 former HMCS area consultation responses papers identify the potential impacts of the court estate reform programme on different communities and groups of people.

Damages

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how he plans to review the discount rate under the Damages Act 1996; what representations he has received on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [54552]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chancellor is in the process of reviewing the discount rate. In this context he has sought views from HM Treasury and the Government Actuary as required by the Damages Act 1996, and has received representations from the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers and the Association of British Insurers. In the light of the views received he has decided to conduct a wider consultation on the methodology to be used in setting the discount rate. A consultation paper will be published soon, and the review will be completed on as timely a basis as possible.

Damages: Employers' Liability

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to Annex A of the impact assessment of the cumulative jackson proposals, for what reason *(a)* the chart at paragraph 1.23 shows that 75 per cent. of general damages in employer liability cases are below £10,000 and 10 per cent. of such cases are between £10,000 and £20,000 and *(b)* the results table in Annex A shows that current average general damages in such cases is £10,436. [54548]

Mr Djanogly: The figures provided in the results table in Annex A of the impact assessment are average figures from the dataset analysed, which contained 5,041 employer liability cases (accident only). General damages in the dataset ranged from £1,000 to £100,000, with the mean average general damages calculated at £10,436.

This average does not provide any detail of the distribution of these general damages; the chart at paragraph 1.23 provides further detail. There are some cases with general damages significantly above £10,000, which brings up the average, despite accounting for a small proportion of the dataset.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the results table in Annex A of the impact assessment of the cumulative Jackson proposals, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the analysed figures for current average general damages and new average general damages represent damages for pain, suffering and loss of amenity only and do not represent total damages or include other heads of damage; and if he will make a statement; [54549]

(2) with reference to paragraph 1.8 of Annex A of the impact assessment of the cumulative Jackson proposals, in how many of the cases comprising the dataset the damages settlements *(a)* were global and *(b)* included damages other than pain, suffering and loss of amenity; how many such cases there were in each case category of (i) employer liability, (ii) public liability and (iii) road traffic accident; and if he will make a statement. [54551]

Mr Djanogly: The dataset analysed includes figures for general damages, and special damages where applicable. However, for some low value claims, the settlements may be global and so there may be negligible special damages recorded.

The dataset received contained a split between general and special damages in all cases, and we cannot tell from the dataset whether a global settlement was made or not. Similarly, we do not hold the detail of those damages which specifically relate to pain, suffering and loss of amenity. The fact that general damages may not always equate to pain, suffering and loss of amenity is noted in paragraph 1.18, point vi).

Prisoners: Childbirth

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were born in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [54845]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of women who have given birth in prison is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as in order to provide this information staff would need to look at each individual's record.

Prisoners: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of women in prison who have one or more previous convictions had a residential address prior to imprisonment up to *(a)* 100, *(b)* 75, *(c)* 50 and *(d)* 25 miles from their present prison; and if he will make a statement. [54844]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not available. Although the Ministry of Justice publishes information on the criminal histories of female offenders in prison, the data sources used do not hold information on the distance between the home addresses of the prisoners and their current prison.

Prisons

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual (i) total hours achieved per establishment and (ii) average hours achieved per inmate in respect of each of the monitored activities set out in Prison Service Orders 7100a and 7101 was in each prison establishment in each of the last 10 years. [54690]

Mr Blunt: The information requested has, where available, been placed in the Library of the House.

It should be noted that targets for purposeful activity apply to the average hours of all purposeful activity per prisoner per week, rather than to the activities individually. Targets are available for 2002-03 to 2009-10.

The total hours and the average hours per prisoner per week achieved for each establishment are shown for the years 2000-01 to 2009-10.

The figures used in the answer have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Private Sector

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* operational capacity and *(b)* prison population was of each private sector prison on 25 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [55002]

Mr Blunt: The operational capacity and population of each private sector prison on 25 March 2011 is set out in the following table. This information is published monthly on the MOJ website via the following link:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation

Operational capacity and population of private sector prisons as at 25 March 2011

Establishment	*Operational capacity*	*Population*
Altcourse	1,324	1,139
Ashfield	360	357
Bronzefield	527	522
Doncaster	1,145	1,102
Dovegate	1,135	1,109
Forest Bank	1,394	1,363
Lowdham Grange	930	935
Parc	1,470	1,453
Peterborough	1,008	980
Rye Hill	625	622
Wolds	395	353

DEFENCE

Air Force: Snow and Ice

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which RAF stations in the UK have an enhanced level of snow and ice clearing equipment. [54035]

Nick Harvey: Priority for the allocation of snow and ice clearing equipment is given to main operating bases and flying establishments with a high readiness role to meet operational requirements. Those RAF stations with the highest priority for this equipment are listed alphabetically as follows:

RAF Boulmer
RAF Brize Norton
RAF Coningsby
RAF Leuchars
RAF Lossiemouth
RAF Lyneham
RAF Northolt
RAF Valley
RAF Waddington.

Armed Forces: HIV Infection

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effect of a diagnosis of HIV on the *(a)* role and duties, *(b)* terms of service and *(c)* employment prospects of a person serving in the armed forces. [54920]

Mr Robathan: Service personnel diagnosed as HIV positive are managed according to their medical condition, their treatment needs and their specific role within HM armed forces. All cases are dealt with on an individual basis and so it is not possible to predict the potential effect of a diagnosis of HIV.

Service policy does not discriminate against individuals with HIV infection or AIDS. Personnel diagnosed as HIV positive are therefore managed in accordance with normal downgrading and subsequent employability arrangements. However, those with AIDS are normally recommended for medical discharge.

Armed Forces: Olympic Games 2012

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to assign HMS Bulwark and HMS Albion to duties supporting the London 2012 Olympics. [54541]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence is working with the Home Office, police and other Government Departments to identify what support the military may provide to the 2012 Olympics. Defence is currently considering requests and planning is ongoing; no decisions have yet been made regarding the use of Royal Navy vessels.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department budgeted for recruitment in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [51831]

(2) how much his Department spent on marketing for recruitment purposes in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [51832]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not have a specific budget for recruitment. Budgets are delegated to Top Level Budget holders who set an estimate for recruitment spend at the beginning of each financial year.

The following table, however, shows Ministry of Defence expenditure on advertising and marketing for recruitment purposes for the last two years as set out in our Annual Report and Accounts. This is predominantly on a national basis but may not include significant amounts of regional spend. The different ways in which each of the services carry out their activities mean that there are variations in how their data are consolidated.

Consolidated data on marketing spend are not available prior to 2008-09.

	£ million
2008-09	62.4
2009-10	29.5

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what restrictions his Department applies to the recruitment to the armed forces of people diagnosed with HIV solely on the basis of their HIV-positive status. [54919]

Mr Robathan: There is no routine pre-employment screening for HIV for individuals wishing to join the armed forces. However, those who declare a history of being HIV seropositive are unfit for entry.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been made redundant from each of the armed forces in each month since the date of the strategic defence and security review; and how many personnel he expects to be made redundant from each of the armed forces in each of the next 12 months. [54772]

Mr Robathan: No service personnel have been made redundant since the date of the strategic defence and security review. At present, it is not known how many service personnel may be made redundant within the next 12 months. Those whose applications for redundancy are successful will leave after six months' notice and those selected for redundancy who did not apply will leave after 12 months' notice. The first tranche of redundancy notices will be issued on 1 September 2011 for the Army and RAF and on 30 September 2011 for the naval services. The armed forces redundancy programme is expected to deliver up to 11,000 redundancies across the three services and should be completed by 31 March 2015.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's defence co-operation agreement with Libya includes training specialised military units; and if he will make a statement. [48574]

Nick Harvey: The Accord on Defence Co-operation and Defence Industrial Partnership, signed by the previous Government, with Libya in 2007, allows for a range of activities, including the training of specialised military units.

No activity is taking place under this agreement at present. In view of the current circumstances in Libya, the agreement is effectively in suspension. Its long-term future will be determined in the light of the resolution of events in Libya.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what ground sign awareness training is conducted in *(a)* hybrid foundation training and *(b)* mission specific training. [54796]

Nick Harvey: Basic ground sign awareness training is provided as part of the initial phase training for military personnel. This is further developed in hybrid foundation and mission specific training.

During hybrid foundation training selected students (ranked Sgt and above) from all three services who are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan complete a ground sign awareness instructor's course and are then required to cascade training to personnel in their units. Cascade training is delivered in both hybrid foundation training and the early stages of mission specific training. The latter also offers collective training opportunities to test and revise ground sign awareness, with its incorporation into a number of field exercises. Finally, these skills are refreshed again in Afghanistan as part of the Reception, Staging and Onward Integration package, which all personnel must complete before deploying on operations.

Aviation: Training

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made on the effects on pilot training for the GR4 Tornado and Typhoon fleet of the current operational tempo. [53571]

Nick Harvey: The current operational tempo has not had an effect on pilot training for the Tornado GR4.

Prioritising of Typhoon resources for current operations has meant that the output from the Operational Conversion Unit (where pilots are trained to operate specific aircraft types) for trainee-Typhoon pilots is temporarily reduced.

The relationship between operational commitments, resources and training is constantly monitored.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which contracts his Department has renegotiated since May 2010; and what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department arising from each such contract renegotiation. [54401]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* Progress on the renegotiation of contracts relating to strategic defence and security review decisions has meant that from our earlier start point of 130, we are now examining in excess of 300 contracts; this is expected to increase to some 500 contracts in due course. We expect the process of renegotiating these contracts to continue into 2012.

Initial focus has been on the contracts that will deliver the highest savings in the early years of the comprehensive spending review period. The Ministry of Defence has already renegotiated around 30 contracts relating to the Nimrod and Harrier programmes. However, I am withholding details of each specific negotiation as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Departmental Public Bodies

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much funding his Department has allocated under each budget heading to the Independent Monitoring Board for the Military Corrective Training Centre in 2011-12; [54419]

(2) when the Independent Monitoring Board for the Military Corrective Training Centre was established; [54420]

(3) how many staff of his Department are working for the Independent Monitoring Board for the Military Corrective Training Centre; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts; [54685]

(4) what the budget for the Independent Monitoring Board for the Military Corrective Training Centre was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how much was spent on the Board under each cost category in that period. [54710]

Mr Robathan: The Independent Monitoring Board (formerly the Independent Board of Visitors), for the Military Corrective Training Centre Colchester, was established in 1980. The board inspect the centre at least twice a year and report their findings to Ministers. They inspect, among other things, the condition of the premises and the treatment, health and welfare of detainees. The arrangements are very similar to those in place for civilian detention facilities in the UK.

The Ministry of Defence provides secretariat and administrative support for the Independent Monitoring Board. The board receives no direct funding from the Ministry of Defence, though travel expenses incurred by and recruitment costs of its members are funded by the Military Corrective Training Centre. Travel expenses amount to less than £3,000 per annum. Recruitment costs occur as and when vacancies arise and in 2010-11 amounted to some £2,500.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for the future level of funding for the National Museum of the Royal Navy. [54421]

Mr Robathan: The National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) was established in April 2009 and consists of the Royal Naval Museum; and the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Royal Marines Museum and Royal Navy Submarine Museum; the latter three are in the process of integrating into the NMRN. The aims of the NMRN are to capture the enduring spirit of the naval service, to provide a clear heritage strategy for the naval service and raise awareness of the vital contribution the naval service has made to national security and the nation's prosperity in the past and in the future.

The currently anticipated future funding for the body for the spending review period is as follows:

	£
2011-12	3,454,843
2012-13	3,809,825
2013-14	3,809,365
2014-15	3,235,178

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for future funding of the National Army Museum. [54422]

Mr Robathan: The National Army Museum was incorporated by Royal Charter on 8 April 1960. Its objectives are to educate and inform the public and members of the Army about the history and traditions of the British Army—in particular, but not exclusively, by collecting conserving, preserving, managing, exhibiting and storing documents, pictorial records, artefacts and printed materials in collection.

On current plans, funding for the National Army Museum is as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	5.6
2012-13	5.7
2013-14	5.9
2014-15	6.0

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much funding his Department provided to the Nuclear Research Advisory Council in the last 12 months; and under what budget headings such funding was spent; [54423]

(2) what plans his Department has for future funding of the Nuclear Research Advisory Council; [54424]

(3) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* function is of the Nuclear Research Advisory Council; [54425]

(4) when the Nuclear Research Advisory Council was established; [54426]

(5) how many staff of his Department are employed by the Nuclear Research Advisory Council; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts. [54429]

Mr Robathan: The Nuclear Research Advisory Council (NRAC) is an advisory non-departmental public body and, as such, does not incur expenditure on its own account. Expenditure on fees and reimbursement of travel and subsistence for the financial year 2010-11 has not yet been finalised but is estimated to be some £49,000.

As an advisory non-departmental public body, the NRAC does not incur expenditure on its own account. Future expenditure will be incurred against any agreed programme of specific scientific advice.

The NRAC's purpose and function is to advise Chief Scientific Advisor on the technical direction and adequacy of the UK's nuclear warhead research and capability maintenance programme, including experiments and other facilities and techniques necessary to design, manufacture, sustain and operate a UK nuclear weapon capability in the absence of underground testing. The Council also examines the UK's programme of international collaboration.

The NRAC was established in 1996.

The NRAC does not employ staff on its own account. The Ministry of Defence provides the support functions for the body.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many staff of his Department are employed by the Oil and Pipelines Agency; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts; [54427]

(2) how much funding his Department provided to the Oil and Pipelines Agency in the last 12 months; and under what budget headings such funding was spent; [54428]

(3) what plans his Department has for future levels of funding for the Oil and Pipelines Agency. [54430]

Mr Robathan: The Oil and Pipelines Agency (OPA) is sponsored by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and is responsible for managing the Government Pipeline and Storage System (GPSS). It oversees all aspects of the operation and maintenance of the pipeline and storage facilities, ensuring that UK military requirements for aviation fuel are met. The OPA generates the majority of its income from charges levied on commercial operators and other countries who also use the GPSS.

The OPA is not funded by the MOD and there are no plans to change this arrangement in the future. However, the OPA charges the Department an annual fee for managing the GPSS on its behalf; this is met from income generated by the agency from other sources. In financial year 2010-11 the fee was approximately £3 million.

Two MOD permanent civilian employees are currently seconded to the OPA for fixed terms. All costs associated with these appointments are funded by the agency.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for future levels of funding for the Royal Air Force Museum. [54431]

Mr Robathan: The Royal Air Force Museum was established in 1963. Its purpose is to educate and inform the public and members of the Royal Air Force about the roles, history and traditions of the Royal Air Force by exhibiting aircraft and other artefacts, documents and pictorial records.

On current plans funding for the RAF Museum is as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	7.7
2012-13	7.9
2013-14	8.1
2014-15	8.3

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Advisory Group on Military Medicine was established; [54435]

(2) what the purpose and function is of the Advisory Group on Military Medicine; [54436]

(3) what plans he has for future levels of spending on the Advisory Group on Military Medicine; [54437]

(4) what the budget is for the Advisory Group on Military Medicine in each category of spending in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [54438]

(5) how many staff of his Department work for the Advisory Group on Military Medicine; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts. [54439]

Mr Robathan: The Advisory Group on Military Medicine (AGOMM) was approved by the Cabinet Office as a non-departmental public body in August 2008, continuing the work previously undertaken by the Advisory Group on Medical Countermeasures (AGMC). Its purpose is to provide: independent statements on the safety, efficacy and quality of medicines and medical devices that may be deployed and employed by the armed forces; specific advice on medical products that are unlicensed or Ministry of Defence intends to use for a purpose other than its licensed use; peer review research, development and acquisition programmes that will deliver future operational medical capability; and independent advice on policy, doctrine, training and practice issues.

As an advisory non-departmental public body it will advise Ministers, but not employ staff or incur expenditure on its own account. The Surgeon General will be a member of the Executive Committee and will provide the secretariat functions for the committee from existing full time HQ Surgeon General Staff. In addition, the committee may draw on the pool of expertise found within the Ministry of Defence and other Government Departments for specific tasks.

The total cost to the Department for work undertaken by AGOMM during the financial year 2010-11 was £5,063.73. This was broken down as follows: daily rate staff costs of £2,562.00; travel and subsistence costs of £2,501.73. It should be noted that AGOMM is scheduled to meet at least twice a year, but only met once in 2010-11. Work is currently under way to finalise the tasking arrangements for the financial year 2011-12. If AGOMM does meet twice in 2011-12 then an approximate doubling of expenditure shown for 2010-11 is expected.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors was established; [54440]

(2) what the purposes and function is of the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors; [54441]

(3) what plans he has for future levels of spending on the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors; [54442]

(4) what the budget was for the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors for each category of spending in 2010-11; [54443]

(5) how many staff of his Department work for the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts. [54444]

Mr Robathan: The Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors was established in 1970.

Its purpose is to hear appeals from service personnel whose applications to retire or resign from further service on the grounds of conscience have not been accepted by the service authorities.

As the Advisory Committee only incurs expenditure when it is required to meet, there are no plans with regard to future levels of spending. The Advisory Committee does not have an annual budget and incurs expenditure only when it is required to meet. On such occasions, its costs are paid for from within the existing resources of the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Central Legal Services budget. The most recent hearing in 2010 cost around £700, which was made up of the fees and expenses of the panel members.

The MOD provides the secretariat function for the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors from within existing permanent staff resources.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reasons he plans to abolish the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee; [54445]

(2) when the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee was established; [54446]

(3) what the purpose and function is of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee; [54447]

(4) what plans he has for future levels of funding for the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee; [54448]

(5) what the budget was for the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee for each category of spending in 2010-11; [54449]

(6) how many staff of his Department work for the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts. [54450]

Mr Robathan: I refer the right hon. Member to the statement given on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS, by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff).

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees was established; [54463]

(2) what the budget was for the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees in each category of spending in 2010-11; [54464]

(3) what plans he has for future levels of spending on the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees; [54465]

(4) what the purpose and function is of the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees; [54466]

(5) how many staff of his Department work for the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts. [54467]

Mr Robathan: 13 regional Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPCs) were established in 2010 as a 12-month pilot to build on the role of the War Pensions Committees. Their purpose is to provide advice, assistance and support to the service and ex-service community on pensions and compensation. They also provide advice and raise awareness to other public bodies and the local communities on the needs of veterans. The Ministry of Defence provides the secretariat functions for the VAPCs; this equates to 1.25 permanent staff. The annual budget for 2011-12 is £41,000 and the main items of expenditure are travel and subsistence. Members are volunteers and receive out-of-pocket expenses.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons was established; [54468]

(2) what the purpose and function is of the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons; [54469]

(3) what the budget contribution from his Department was for the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons under each budget heading in 2010-11; [54470]

(4) what plans he has for future levels of funding for the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons; [54471]

(5) how many staff of his Department work for the Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts. [54472][1]

Mr Robathan: The Science Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (SACMILL) was approved as a non-departmental public body in June 2009 and will be established soon. It is expected to be established later this year and it will continue the work previously undertaken by the Defence Science Advisory Council Subcommittee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (DOMILL).

SACMILL's purpose will be to provide: advice on the biophysical, biomechanical, pathological and clinical aspects of generic classes of Less Lethal Weapons; independent statements on the medical implications of use of specific Less Lethal Weapons; advice on the risk of injury from specific Less Lethal Weapons systems striking specific areas of the body in a format that will assist those responsible for developing policy; and, separately, guidance to users, as well as operational users themselves in making tactical decisions.

As an advisory non-departmental public body it will advise Ministers, but not employ staff or incur expenditure on its own account. The Surgeon General will be a member of the Executive Committee and will provide the secretariat functions for the committee from existing full-time HQ Surgeon General Staff. In addition, the committee may draw on the pool of expertise found within the Ministry of Defence and other Government Departments for specific tasks.

The total cost to the Department for DOMILL legacy work undertaken during the financial year 2010-11 was £39,355.56, principally for travel and subsistence costs. Work is currently under way to finalise the tasking arrangements for the financial year 2011-12; a similar level of expenditure as the previous year is expected.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the Review Board for Government Contracts was established; [54473]

(2) what the purpose and function is of the Review Board for Government Contracts; [54474]

(3) what plans his Department has for future expenditure on the Review Board for Government Contracts; [54675]

(4) how many staff of his Department are employed by the Review Board for Government Contracts; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts; [54677]

(5) what his Department's budget for the Review Board for Government Contracts was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how much was spent on the Board under each cost category in that period. [54713]

Mr Robathan: The Review Board for Government Contracts was established in 1968.

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[1] *[Official Report, 20 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 10MC.]*

The primary purpose of the Review Board is regularly to review and maintain the Government Profit Formula used by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) when pricing single source work. A second function of the Review Board is to review the price of individual contracts which are referred to it under contract conditions, by one or both parties to the contract.

The arrangements for single source pricing—which include the role of the Review Board—are currently the subject of an independent review by Lord Currie of Marylebone 26 January 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 11WS. Until such time as any changes in the current arrangements are accepted and implemented the Government have stated that they expect the Review Board to continue in its current role.

Under the terms of the 1968 Agreement establishing the Review Board, its Secretariat is provided

> "by the engagement of a firm of professional accountants".

The requirement for secretariat services to the board is periodically advertised under competitive tender processes and is currently provided by Deloitte LLP.

No members of MOD staff are permanently or temporarily employed by the Review Board for Government Contracts.

In 2010-11 the Review Board incurred the following costs (figures include estimated accrued costs of £93,000 for March 2011):

Item	*£000*
Review Board—Chairman and Members (4) fees	43
Travel and subsistence	18
Secretariat costs (Deloitte LLP) to support the Board's 2011 Annual Review of the Government Profit Formula	207
Sub-total	268
Additional Secretariat costs (Deloitte LLP)—to support the Review Board consideration of the MOD contract referral	666
Total	934

The additional costs of the board's consideration of the MOD contract referral were covered from within the Director General Defence Commercial overall budget provision.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many staff of his Department are assigned to the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts; [54676]

(2) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* functions are of the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee; [54679]

(3) on what date the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee was established; [54680]

(4) what plans his Department has for future expenditure on the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee; [54678]

(5) what his Department's budget for the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how much was spent on the Committee under each cost category in that period. [54714]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Nuclear Safety Committee (DNSC) is an advisory non-departmental public body and, as such, it does not employ staff on its own account. The Ministry of Defence provides the support functions for the body.

The DNSC does not incur expenditure on its own account. Expenditure on fees and reimbursement of travel and subsistence for the financial year 2010-11 is estimated to be some £65,000. Future expenditure will be incurred against any agreed programme of specific advice.

The DNSC's purpose and functions are to advise the Secretary of State for Defence on all safety matters pertaining to the naval nuclear propulsion plant and nuclear weapon systems, including related issues of design, development, manufacture, storage, in-service support, handling, transport, operational training, support facilities and capabilities, the safety of workers and the public.

The DNSC was established in 1999.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many staff of his Department are employed by the Defence Scientific Advisory Council; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts; [54681]

(2) what plans his Department has for future expenditure on the Defence Scientific Advisory Council; [54682]

(3) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* functions are of the Defence Scientific Advisory Council; [54683]

(4) on what date the Defence Scientific Advisory Council was established; [54684]

(5) what his Department's budget for the Defence Scientific Advisory Council was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how much was spent on the Council under each cost category in that period. [54712]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Scientific Advisory Council (DSAC) is an advisory non-departmental public body and as such it does not employ staff on its own account. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) provides the secretariat functions for the body.

DSAC does not incur expenditure on its own account. However, we estimate that expenditure on fees, and travel and subsistence reimbursement came to about £170,000 in the financial year 2010-11. However, future MOD expenditure may be incurred depending on any specific scientific requirement identified.

DSAC provides the MOD's main source of independent scientific advice on non-nuclear science, engineering technology and analysis issues.

DSAC was established on 1 April 1969, but its antecedents go back to 1940 in the form of the Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development which reported to the Minister of Supply.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what date the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation was established; [54686]

(2) how many staff of his Department are assigned to the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts; [54687]

(3) what the *(a)* purpose and (b) functions are of the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation; [54688]

(4) what plans his Department has for future expenditure on the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation; [54689]

(5) what his Department's budget for the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how much was spent on the Committee under each cost category in that period. [54711]

Mr Robathan: The Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation was established in 1921 under the War Pensions Act. Its purpose is to give service, ex-service and voluntary organisations a forum in which they can consult with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on pension and compensation issues. The MOD provides the secretariat functions for the body at no additional cost to the MOD.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many staff of his Department are engaged by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body; and how many such staff are on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts; [54704]

(2) what plans his Department has for future expenditure on the Armed Forces Pay Review Body; [54705]

(3) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* functions are of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body; [54706]

(4) on what date the Armed Forces Pay Review Body was established; [54707]

(5) what his Department's budget for the Armed Forces Pay Review Body was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how much was spent on the Body under each cost category in that period. [54709]

Mr Robathan: The Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) was established in 1971. Its purpose is to provide independent advice to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence on the remuneration and charges for members of the Naval, Military and Air Forces of the Crown. The Office of Manpower Economics (within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) provides the secretariat function. The 2011-12 Ministry of Defence budget for AFPRB activity is £88,920; the main items of expenditure are AFPRB member salaries (£66,750) and the production of the AFPRB Report (£8,572). The future funding for the body for the spending review period is expected to be in line with that for the current financial year.

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the staff vacancy rate in his Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in his Department's budget for 2011-12. [51392]

Mr Robathan: In financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) advertised 4,940 vacancies internally to its own staff and 1,040 vacancies externally to other Departments and the general public (both totals rounded to the nearest 10). There has been a freeze on external recruitment to the MOD since May 2010, other than for business critical posts, such as those in direct support of operations, apprenticeships, fast stream and specialist graduates and posts paid for in full by other parties (for example United States visiting forces and NATO support facilities). There is no central planning assumption on staff vacancy rate for civil service staff in the MOD.

Electronic Warfare

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has allocated to the prevention of cyber attacks by the Stuxnet computer virus. [52736]

Nick Harvey: The Department has procedural and physical measures in place to protect against and mitigate the impact of cyber attack. We do not comment on the specific detail of cyber security incidents or threat assessments.

The Department reviews the adequacy of its overall protection on an annual basis to inform its planning round process.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to investigate the health effects of nuclear test veterans' exposure to ionising radiation on their offspring. [54787]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has placed a £75,000 contract to take forward a health needs audit of nuclear test veterans. The audit is in line with a wider NHS commitment to improve access and support in relation to the health needs of all veterans in the UK and will gather and record the direct experience and views of nuclear test veterans about their health and social care needs. Veterans have had the ability to input any concerns they have had including about their children during the study, which is due to be completed in the summer.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has assessed the merits of extending the entitlement criteria applying to the war pension scheme to include radiation-linked diseases other than leukaemia. [54788]

Mr Robathan: Published peer-reviewed medical and scientific literature is routinely screened to ensure medically sound decisions under the war pensions scheme are made, and where appropriate entitlement policy and practice is amended. To date this scrutiny does not suggest any extension of entitlement criteria for nuclear test veterans is appropriate.

Foreign Relations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department have met their counterparts from (i) Tunisia, (ii) Libya, (iii) Kuwait and (iv) Saudi Arabia since January 2010; [49903]

(2) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department have met their counterparts from (i) Syria, (ii) Yemen, (iii) Qatar and (iv) Egypt since January 2010; [49913]

(3) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department have met their counterparts from (i) Lebanon, (ii) Israel, (iii) Nigeria and (iv) Uzbekistan since January 2010; [49914]

(4) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department have met their counterparts from (i) Guinea, (ii) Turkey, (iii) United Arab Emirates and (iv) Chad since January 2010; [49916]

(5) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department have met their counterparts from (i) Burundi, (ii) Kenya, (iii) Sudan and (iv) Zimbabwe since January 2010; [49917]

(6) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department have met their counterparts from Bahrain since January 2008; [49918]

(7) on what occasions *(a)* officials, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* military personnel in his Department have met their counterparts from (i) Iraq, (ii) Ivory Coast, (iii) Liberia and (iv) Burkina Faso since January 2010. [49919]

Nick Harvey: Organised bilateral meetings have taken place between Ministry of Defence (MOD) Ministers and personnel with the countries specified in the following table, to 31 March 2011. Not all the information requested is available centrally.

'Senior visits' refer to three and four-star officials and officers other than the Chief of the Defence Staff; "working visits" are at lower levels. The occasion of a single visit may involve several engagements with a range of counterparts.

This list excludes contacts by or with Defence Attachés and advisers; operational deployments; permanently deployed training and loan service personnel; training conducted in the UK or overseas; Directorate General Saudi Armed Forces Projects; contacts involving MOD personnel attached to international institutions, such as the UN; and contacts at multilateral events such as conferences, exhibitions and seminars.

	Ministerial visits	*CDS visits*	*Other senior visits*	*Working visits*	*Staff talks and strategic dialogues*
Tunisia	—	—	—	—	—
Libya	To UK July 2010	—	—	Yes	—
Kuwait	March 2010, February 2011; to UK October 2010	—	—	—	May 2010
Saudi Arabia	September 2010, December 2010	—	Yes	—	March 2010
Syria	—	—	—	—	—
Yemen	Presidential visit to UK August 2010	—	Yes	—	—
Qatar	November 2010, March 2011; state visit to UK October 2010	—	Yes	—	October 2010
Egypt	—	—	—	—	December 2010
Lebanon	To UK November 2010	—	Yes	—	—
Israel	February 2011; to UK March 2011	—	—	—	March 2010
Nigeria	—	—	—	Yes	—
Uzbekistan	—	—	—	Yes	—
Afghanistan	To UK January 2010	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—
Burma	—	—	—	—	—
Rwanda	—	February 2011	—	—	—
Somalia	—	—	—	Yes	—
Guinea	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey	February 2010, January 2011; to UK July 2010	—	—	Yes	March 2010
UAE	State visit November 2010, June 2010, February, April 2011; to UK October 2010	—	Yes	Yes	—
Chad	—	—	—	—	—
Burundi	—	—	—	—	—
Kenya	December 2010; to UK February 2011	February 2011	Yes	Yes	March 2011
Sudan	—	—	—	Yes	—
Zimbabwe	—	—	—	—	—
Bahrain	December 2008, December 2009, May 2010, November 2010, December 2010, January 2011, February 2011; to UK November 2008, November 2010	—	Yes	—	May 2008, October 2009
Iraq	March 2010	—	Yes	Yes	—
Ivory Coast	—	—	—	—	—
Liberia	—	—	—	—	—
Burkina Faso	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Multiple other ministerial, senior and working visits.

HMS Albion

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to place HMS Albion into extended readiness. [54993]

Nick Harvey: On current plans HMS Albion will begin her period of extended readiness in late 2011, at which point HMS Bulwark will become the high readiness landing platform dock.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution *(a)* HMS Albion and *(b)* HMS Ocean has made to the Royal Navy's Response Force Task Group; and if he will make a statement. [54994]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Navy's Response Force Task Group is a new initiative announced in last year's strategic defence and security review (SDSR) and Cougar 11 is its first deployment. HMS Albion and HMS Ocean as with all other units on this deployment have been developing, through force generation and collective training, contingent capability in their respective roles as the landing platform dock and landing platform helicopter.

HMS Liverpool

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what decommissioning date he has set for HMS Liverpool. [54991]

Nick Harvey: On current plans, HMS Liverpool will be withdrawn from service in 2012.

Navy: Olympic Games 2012

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for Royal Navy vessels to be used to provide office and control centre accommodation for the London 2012 Olympics. [53969]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is working with the Home Office, police and other Government Departments to identify what support the military may provide to the 2012 Olympics. The MOD is currently considering requests and planning is ongoing; no decisions have yet been made regarding the use of Royal Navy vessels.

Navy: Training

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the results of the Naval Review of Training; and if he will make a statement. [54761]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* As part of the continued drive to deliver more effective and efficient training, the Navy Board has endorsed a new training regime: Initial Naval Training (INT). The INT is a common package of core naval training but with separate officer and rating classes to enhance levels of individual capability and to meet the needs of the modern, adaptable Navy.

The first 10-week INT course for ratings will commence on 8 May 2011, with the officers' INT course beginning in January 2012.

Nuclear Submarines

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when research and development work for the PWR2b type reactor was initiated; [54669]

(2) what studies have been carried out into the use of the PWR2b type reactor for later submarines in the Astute class; and when such studies were initiated; [54670]

(3) on what date the safety of UK nuclear submarines was first benchmarked against *(a)* relevant civil nuclear practice and *(b)* US Navy practice; [54671]

(4) what assessment the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator has made of the capability of a PWR2b plant for the Trident replacement submarines to deliver emergency core cooling through direct head injection in dealing with a loss of coolant accident; [54708]

(5) what assessment the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator has made of the capacity of a PWR2b plant to demonstrate relevant good practice in responding to a loss of coolant accident; [54672]

(6) whether the ability of the PWR2b and PWR3 plants to deal with a loss of coolant accident has yet been reviewed sufficiently to satisfy a decision for the initial gate business case; [54673]

(7) whether a formal presentation of *(a)* the safety analysis and arguments for a PWR2b plant and *(b)* the associated cost and schedule risk have yet been made to the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator; [54674]

(8) if he will publish the analysis of the *(a)* PWR2b and *(b)* PWR3 design concepts for the Trident replacement submarines as part of the initial gate business case; [54716]

(9) what assessment he has made in the reduction of risk with regard to *(a)* control of submarine depth and *(b)* a loss of coolant accident from a (i) PWR2b and (ii) PWR3 propulsion system for the Trident replacement submarine. [54717]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence has maintained a continuous research and technology development programme that delivers improvements to safety, as well as other aspects of reactor plant performance, for nuclear submarines that are currently being operated or built for the Royal Navy, as well as enabling the design of future nuclear reactor plants.

Regular detailed scrutiny of submarine reactor plant safety is conducted by expert personnel from within the Ministry of Defence, including the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator and the Health and Safety Executive's Office of Nuclear Regulation and by independent nuclear safety assessors to ensure safety is benchmarked against national and internationally accepted standards.

For reasons of security, I do not intend to go into further detail about specific aspects of nuclear submarine reactor plant design, or what specific assessments have, or will be undertaken for future reactor plant designs. However, all such considerations are subject to a rigorous assessment against principles that are consistent with those applied across all UK nuclear reactor programmes, of which safety is a paramount consideration. These principles are embodied within the Health and Safety Executive's Safety Assessment Principles, which were adopted by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator during 2007-08.

Warships

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the composition of the Cougar deployment is; and what its mission is. [54758]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* Cougar is the 2011 deployment of the Response Force Task Group (RFTG) and is composed of HMS Albion, HMS Ocean, HMS Liverpool, HMS Sutherland, RFA Wave Knight, RFA Cardigan Bay, RFA Fort Rosalie and RFA Mounts Bay, together with embarked Royal Marine commandos and air assets comprising five Lynx, seven Sea King and three Apache.

This long planned exercise will develop the RFTG through force generation and collective training, to demonstrate contingent capability and to develop relationships with regional partners in support of Defence objectives.

TREASURY

Double-dip Recession

15. **Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the likelihood of a double-dip recession. [54736]

Danny Alexander: The UK returned to positive growth in the first quarter of this year. The Government have always said the recovery will be choppy. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility and all other credible forecasters, including the NIESR who released forecasts just last week, are very clear that the UK recovery will continue.

Economic Growth

16. **Margaret Curran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of changes in the outlook for economic growth since the assessment made as part of the comprehensive spending review. [54737]

Mr Gauke: The Government's economic policy objective is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries. The economic forecasts published at Budget by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) take full account of the policy measures announced in both the spending review and the Budget published in March of this year. The OBR forecasts the economy to grow throughout 2011 and in every year of the forecast.

19. **Ian Murray:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of trends in the level of economic growth in the last two quarters. [54741]

Mr Gauke: Manufacturing is growing strongly, the economy has created thousands of jobs since the turn of the year and borrowing is down. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility and all other credible forecasters, including NIESR whose forecast was released just last week, are very clear that the UK recovery will continue.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of changes in the outlook for economic growth since May 2010. [54743]

Mr Gauke: The Government's economic policy objective is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries. The economic forecasts published at Budget by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) take full account of the policy measures announced in both the spending review and the Budget published in March of this year. The OBR forecasts the economy to grow throughout 2011 and in every year of the forecast.

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of trends in the level of economic growth in the last two quarters. [54731]

Justine Greening: The economy has returned to growth. Manufacturing is growing strongly, the economy has created thousands of jobs and borrowing is down. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility and other credible forecasters, including NIESR whose forecast was released just last week, are very clear that the UK recovery will continue.

EU Budget 2012

17. **Bob Stewart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the European Commission's proposals for the EU budget for 2012. [54738]

Justine Greening: The Government have been clear that a 4.9% increase in EU spending in 2012, proposed by the Commission, is unacceptable. The letter signed by the UK, France, Germany, Finland and the Netherlands in December last year clearly states that growth in EU spending in 2012 must be curbed. The Government will work with other member states to deliver the best possible outcome for UK taxpayers in future negotiations.

Working Tax Credit

18. **Nick Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families who earn less than £30,000 a year who will have their income reduced as a result of changes to the working tax credit. [54739]

Justine Greening: Given the interaction of tax credit measures with other benefits, it is the overall impact of measures that is important for a household.

At Budget 2011 the Government published detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of its decisions. Looking at the cumulative impact of tax, tax credit and benefit reforms introduced at the last Budget and previous fiscal events, the top decile sees the largest losses.

This is the case across the income distribution, in both cash terms (Chart A.2) and as a proportion of net income (Chart A.3). It is also the case across the expenditure distribution, in cash terms (Chart A.4) and as a proportion of expenditure (Chart A.5).

Child Poverty

22. **Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the OECD on the effects of his Department's fiscal policies on levels of child poverty. [54744]

Justine Greening: The Minister for Employment attended the OECD Social Policy ministerial meeting on 2 May where child poverty was discussed.

The 2011 Budget confirmed that the Government's modelled tax and welfare reforms could reduce relative child poverty by up to 50,000 over the next two years.

However, poverty is about more than just income. The reforms announced by this Government are about tackling the causes of poverty and will increase fairness and improve work incentives.

Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

23. **Claire Perry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the size of the public sector borrowing requirement. [54745]

Justine Greening: The Public Sector Finances first release published by the Office for National Statistics estimates that the first provisional outturn for public sector net borrowing in 2010-11 is £141.1 billion or 9.6% of GDP, this is £15 billion lower than 2009-10.

In March 2011 the independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecast public sector net borrowing to 2015-16. This forecast is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-march-2011

Bank Lending

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of trends in levels of bank lending to small businesses. [54742]

Mr Hoban: Overall repayment of debt by small businesses is running ahead of lending to the same sector. As a consequence, net lending fell in the first quarter of this year. However, the availability of credit to business in the same period increased.

Child Benefit

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants there are of child benefit in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* England. [54495]

Mr Gauke: At August 2010 there were 7,841,675 households in the UK that receive child benefit, of which 6,562,705 were in England.

The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug10.pdf

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants of child benefit in England are in receipt of that benefit in respect of *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* more than three children. [54496]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the information requested:

	Households in receipt of child benefit in England
One child	3,051,980
Two children	2,473,415
Three children	761,550
Four or more children	275,765
Total	6,562,705

Note:

The figures have been independently rounded to the nearest five. This can lead to components not summing to totals as shown.

The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug10.pdf

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54563]

Justine Greening: The Department does not publish forecasts of pay-related spending for future years.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 14 March 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms J. Lambert. [54821]

Justine Greening: I wrote to all Members on 4 April 2011 to set out the Government's position on fuel duty and motoring following the Budget in order to respond to correspondence that hon. Members have raised on that topic.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he proposes to include the energy companies' obligation in the cap on the impact of levy-funded support on energy bills described in paragraph 2.159 of "The Plan for Growth". [54233]

Justine Greening: The new control framework for DECC levy-funded spending covers DECC's policies that entail levy-funded spending and that are classified by the Office for National Statistics as tax and spend for National Accounts purposes.

If other DECC policies are classified by the Office for National Statistics as tax and spend and yet are deficit neutral then they will fall within the control framework. The energy company obligation will be included if it is classified as such.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of a green tax his Department uses. [54480]

Justine Greening: The Government are currently reviewing what taxes are classified as environmental. Once this work concludes a statement will be placed in the House Library.

Whisky: Scotland

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value to the UK economy of overseas sales in the whisky industry in Scotland. [53039]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

According to Overseas Trade Statistics data published by HM Revenue and Customs, UK exports of whisky (SITC 11241) totalled £3,520 million in 2010. Of this, about £72 million was not Scotch.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he made of the implications for human rights of the Clean Development Mechanism projects *(a)* augan biogas recovery from palm oil mill effluent ponds and biogas utilisation and *(b)* lean biogas recovery from palm oil mill effluent ponds and biogas/biomass utilisation prior to authorising the purchase of credits from each project. [53967]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is aware of the allegations in respect of these projects and has written to the CDM Executive Board to request a robust investigation. Of the two projects mentioned in recent representations by Biofuelwatch, the UK Government have issued only a Letter of Authorisation (LoA) in respect of the participation of EDF Trading Ltd in the augan biogas recovery project (CDM reference number 3197). The lean biogas recovery project was not authorised by the UK.

When assessing the augan project the standard procedures for dealing with applications seeking UK authorisation of companies' participation in CDM projects were followed. These require the applicant to submit documentation including a letter of approval from the Honduran Government stating that the project contributes to sustainable development alongside a declaration that all documentation is correct. On the basis of these assurances, a letter of authorisation was issued to EDF Trading Ltd based on these assurances on 3 June 2009, prior to the events recounted in the allegations. We understand that EDF energy has since withdrawn from participation in the project.

The final assessment of whether any CDM project is compliant with CDM rules lies with the CDM Executive Board, which is currently reviewing the status of the augan project.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on the *(a)* augan biogas recovery from palm oil mill effluent ponds and biogas utilisation and *(b)* lean biogas recovery from palm oil mill effluent ponds and biogas/biomass utilisation project under the Clean Development Mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [53968]

Gregory Barker: The allegations of human rights abuses in connection with these two projects were first brought to the attention of the Secretary of State on 4 February 2011, when a letter of protest was received from a coalition of NGOs led by Biofuelwatch. This was followed in early April by a mass e-mail campaign.

The allegations are plainly deplorable. Consequently the Secretary of State wrote to number of relevant organisations and responsible bodies, expressing his concern and requesting further information. These organisations included the Honduran authorities, the CDM Executive Board and the UK authorised project participant, EDF Trading Ltd. The Secretary of State also asked the Executive Board to assess whether the project meets CDM rules and to deal with the human rights allegations in so far as they are able.

EDF Trading Ltd has recently announced that it is terminating its involvement in the two projects. Of the two projects EDF had received only a UK Letter of Authorisation (LoA) for one: the augan biogas recovery project. Since the UK LoA was valid for use only by EDF, the termination of its involvement in the project effectively renders the letter defunct.

Energy Supply

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many instances his Department and its predecessors have recorded of transfers between energy suppliers made in error and without the customer's consent in each of the last five years. [54626]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not hold the information requested. To meet its principal duty to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem collects data on a range of issues, including erroneous transfers. Whilst Ofgem does not publish these data it has statutory powers to take action to address market issues where it feels such action is required.

Erroneous transfers of energy supplies most commonly occur because of administrative or data error on the part of the supplier. Since 2009, the big six suppliers have operated the "Peace of Mind Guarantee", which sets out the process customers who have been affected by an erroneous transfer can expect to rectify the error. The guarantee was designed to ensure mistakes are corrected quickly and with as little inconvenience to the consumer as possible.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much has been paid to each individual law firm from the Coal Health Compensation scheme in respect of cases of *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder to date; [54933]

(2) how much has been paid to each individual law firm under the Coal Health Compensation scheme in respect of claims for cases of *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease from each constituency to date; [54935]

(3) how many claims for compensation for *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease under the Coal Health Compensation scheme have been received from each law firm to date. [54937]

Charles Hendry: Tables showing the number of claims received and costs paid as at December 2010 to claimants' solicitors handling claims under the Coal Health Compensation schemes for vibration white finger (VWF) and for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) will be made available in the Libraries of the House, which will provide breakdown by legal firm and the total amount paid to each firm.

We do not have the costs for individual law firms broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much compensation has been awarded under the Coal Health Compensation scheme for cases of *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to recipients in each constituency to date. [54934]

Charles Hendry: The amount of compensation awarded as at April 2011 under the Coal Health Compensation schemes for vibration white finger (VWF) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is shown in the tables which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many claims for vibration white finger under the Coal Health Compensation scheme received *(a)* from North Durham constituency and *(b)* nationally have been processed to date; [54938]

(2) how many claims under the Coal Health Compensation scheme for vibration white finger *(a)* received from North Durham constituency and *(b)* nationally are outstanding; [54936]

(3) how many claims under the Coal Health Compensation scheme for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease received *(a)* from North Durham constituency and *(b)* nationally are outstanding; [54939]

(4) how many claims under the Coal Health Compensation scheme for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease received *(a)* from North Durham constituency and *(b)* nationally have been processed to date. [54940]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the number of scheme claims received and processed for North Durham and nationally for vibration white finger (VWF) and for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as at April 2011. There are no outstanding claims for North Durham.

Number

	Claims received North Durham	*Claims settled North Durham*	*Total claims received*	*Total claims settled*	*Compensation claims outstanding*
COPD	6,587	6,587	591,768	591,738	[1]30
VWF	642	642	169,611	[2]169,611	0
Total	7,229	7,229	761,379	761,349	30

[1] For the COPD scheme, there are only three claimants awaiting an offer or denial.

[2] All scheme VWF compensation claims have been settled. There are two claims of which solicitors' costs are yet to be paid.

Oil: Refineries

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the measures contained in Budget 2011 on the UK downstream oil industry, including refining. [54001]

Charles Hendry: HM Treasury is responsible for budgetary policy and has confirmed that its sectoral analysis did not suggest a significant impact. DECC has not made a separate detailed assessment but our work suggests that the economics of oil refining should not be affected by taxation changes on North sea oil production. Businesses, including the downstream oil industry, have been supported by the 2% reduction in corporation tax this April.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis was for the decision to cap expenditure on the feed-in tariff scheme as part of the comprehensive spending review; and for what reason the decision was taken. [52932]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Feed-in tariffs entail levy-funded spending and are classified by the Office for National Statistics as tax and spend for National Accounts purposes. They add to total tax and spending levels and impose costs on household and business energy bills. It is therefore important that these impacts are controlled.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on levels of antisocial behaviour; and if she will make a statement. [54763]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office receives numerous representations from members of the public who are concerned about the levels of antisocial behaviour in their area. That is why, on 7 February, we published the consultation document "More effective responses to antisocial behaviour". It sets out the Government's proposals to streamline and improve the toolkit available to the police and their local partners to deal with antisocial behaviour, as a key part of wider reforms that will make agencies more accountable to the public for the way they respond to local crime and policing priorities. The consultation runs until 17 May.

Asylum

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* providing accommodation and support to asylum seekers, *(b)* processing asylum applications and *(c)* deporting unsuccessful asylum seekers in each of the last three years. [53143]

Damian Green: The cost of providing accommodation and support to asylum seekers in each of the last three years is given in the following table. It is not possible to provide the cost of processing asylum applications without incurring disproportionate cost.

It is also not possible to provide the cost of deporting asylum seekers as the UK Border Agency does not record these costs separately. The National Audit Office report "Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency", published on 23 January 2009 and available to view at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx

provides a range of upper- and lower-end cost estimates for people who are detained or removed in different circumstances (for example, for a single undetained adult who is removed after exhausting his/her appeal rights, the process will cost between £7,900 and £17,000 excluding accommodation and support costs, and between £12,000 and £25,600 including accommodation and support costs). A copy of this report is available in the House Library.

Cost of accommodation and support for asylum-seekers

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Initial accommodation	19.0	14.9	8.5
Dispersed accommodation	127.8	123.0	99.7
Section 4 support	90.8	101.9	55.7
Cash support	69.0	68.1	55.6
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children	142.1	150.7	114.9
One-Stop Service	—	10.1	10.2
Wraparound	—	—	4.1
Total	448.7	468.7	348.7

Note:
The figures for 2010-11 are unaudited and are subject to possible adjustment. Figures-for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are taken from the audited accounts of the UK Border Agency.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 312W, on asylum, in which month of 2011 the UK Border Agency expects to conclude the backlog of legacy asylum claims; and what instructions have been issued to UK Border Agency staff on how to respond to enquiries by claimants on the conclusion of their claims. [53697]

Damian Green *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The UK Border Agency provides regular updates on performance of the "legacy" cases, including a breakdown into grants, removals and "other" cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

On 2 March, the Agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded over 403,000 cases as at 31 January 2011.

The UK Border Agency has completed its review of all the outstanding "legacy" cases. A small unit has been set up in the north-west region. This will continue concluding those cases that have been reviewed but not concluded. They will also monitor the controlled archive and take forward any cases that should come to light. Claimants have details of the case team dealing with their application. To improve the service that the UK Border Agency provides whilst minimising the impact of calls on productivity, claimants can contact the case team in writing or via a dedicated e-mail inbox with enquiries relating to their claims.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* applied for asylum, *(b)* were granted asylum on initial decision, *(c)* were granted exceptional leave to remain on initial decision, *(d)* were granted humanitarian protection on initial decision, *(e)* were granted discretionary leave to remain on initial decision, *(f)* were refused either asylum, exceptional leave to remain, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave to remain on initial decision, *(g)* appealed their initial decision, *(h)* were granted asylum on appeal, *(i)* were granted some form of protection after appeal, *(j)* were refused asylum or other protection after appeal, *(k)* were the subject of enforced removals, *(l)* were the subject of notified voluntary departures, *(m)* were the subject of assisted voluntary returns and *(n)* were former asylum seekers who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities in each year from 1997 to 2010. [54493]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The number of people who applied for asylum, were granted asylum on initial decision, were granted exceptional leave to remain on initial decision, were granted humanitarian protection on initial decision, were granted discretionary leave to remain on initial decision, were refused asylum, exceptional leave to remain, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave to remain on initial decision—*(a)* to *(f)*—is provided in the following table:

Applications received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[1, 2] 1997 to 2010

Number of principal applicants

		Initial decisions					
			Cases considered under normal procedures				
		Total initial decisions					*Refusals*
	Total applications		*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted exceptional leave to remain*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave*	*Total refused*
1997	32,500	36,045	3,985	3,115	n/a	n/a	28,945

Applications received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[1, 2] 1997 to 2010

Number of principal applicants

			Initial decisions				
			Cases considered under normal procedures				*Refusals*
	Total applications	*Total initial decisions*	*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted exceptional leave to remain*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave*	*Total refused*
1998	46,015	31,570	5,345	3,910	n/a	n/a	22,315
1999	71,160	33,720	7,815	2,465	n/a	n/a	11,025
2000	80,315	109,205	10,375	11,495	n/a	n/a	75,680
2001	71,025	120,950	11,450	20,190	n/a	n/a	89,310
2002	84,130	83,540	8,270	20,135	n/a	n/a	55,130
2003	49,405	64,940	3,865	3,975	140	3,095	53,865
2004	33,960	46,020	1,565	n/a	160	3,835	40,465
2005	25,710	27,395	1,940	n/a	120	2,675	22,655
2005	23,610	20,930	2,170	n/a	55	2,245	16,460
2007	23,430	21,775	3,545	n/a	125	2,075	16,030
2008	25,930	19,400	3,725	n/a	95	2,075	13,505
2009[3]	24,485	24,285	4,190	n/a	95	2,460	17,545
2010[3]	17,790	20,645	3,480	n/a	90	1,620	15,455

n/a = not applicable

[1] Figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest five (* = one or two). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Provisional figures.

The number of people who appealed their decision, were allowed at appeal, were dismissed at appeal—*(g)* to *(j)*—is provided in the following table. Information on whether the applicant was granted asylum or some other form of protection at appeal is unavailable and would be available only on examination of individual records at disproportionate costs.

Asylum appeals received and determined at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal/First-tier Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber[1, 2], excluding dependants, 1997 to 2010

Number principal applicants

			Appeals determined[3]			
	Appeals by the Home Office[4]	*Appeals received by the IAA/AIT[5]*	*Total determined[5]*	*Total allowed[6]*	*Total dismissed[6]*	*Total withdrawn[6, 9]*
1997	20,950	22,385	21,090	1,180	18,145	1,720
1998	14,320	15,440	25,320	2,355	21,195	1,770
1999	6,615	7,775	19,460	5,280	11,135	3,050
2000	46,190	28,935	19,395	3,340	15,580	475
2001	74,365	47,905	43,415	8,155	34,440	825
2002	51,695	64,125	64,405	13,875	48,845	1,685
2003	46,130	70,575	81,725	16,070	63,810	1,845
2004	35,110	47,000	55,975	10,845	43,760	1,370
2005	4,935	24,835	33,440	5,605	26,555	1,285
2006	n/a	14,920	15,955	3,540	11,595	820
2007	n/a	14,060	14,945	3,385	10,735	825
2008	n/a	10,660	10,720	2,475	7,585	650
2009[7]	n/a	15,420	14,610	4,150	9,675	780
2010[7, 8]	n/a	16,170	17,930	4,835	12,090	1,010

n/a = not applicable

[1] Figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest five (— = 0; * = one or two) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] The Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum (TSIA), consisting of the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC and UTIAC) replaced the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 15 February 2010. All figures for appeals determined are cases dealt with by immigration judges at the AIT or FTTIAC.

[3] All figures for appeals determined are cases dealt with by adjudicators/judges at the IAA or AIT.

[4] Data for 2000 are based on manual counts of data received in the Appeals Support Section of the Home Office. Some cases were received elsewhere in the Home Office before being forwarded to ASS and so may be counted at a later date than when they arrived in the Home Office. Figures for 1997 to March 2005 are based on Immigration and Nationality Directorate electronic sources. From April 2005 appeals are lodged directly with the AIT.

[5] Based on information supplied by the Ministry of Justice. "Appeals received" data include some cases lodged at the Home Office and transferred to the AIT/FTTIAC. The data also include a small number of cases initially flagged as being potentially invalid or out of time for which the papers were examined by an immigration judge and determined to be valid and/or in-time. These cases then proceed through the appeal system.

[6] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as those withdrawn by the appellant.

[7] Provisional figures.

[8] Provisional management information supplied by the Ministry of Justice.

[9] Estimated figures (to March 2005).

Sources:

Prior to April 2005: Presenting Officers Unit, Home Office; from April 2005: Ministry of Justice, Determinations do not necessarily relate to appeals received in the same period.

The number of removals and voluntary departures from the UK of principal asylum applicants, broken down by type of departure—*(k)* to *(n)*—is provided in the following table. It is not possible to provide the exact split requested; in line with published statistics, "enforced removals" and "notified voluntary departures" have been grouped together.

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2] of principal asylum cases, by type, 1997 to 2010

				Number of departures[1]
	Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[4,5]	*Assisted voluntary returns[6]*	*Other voluntary departures[7]*	*Total principal asylum cases*
1997	7,165	n/a	n/a	7,165
1998	6,990	n/a	n/a	6,990
1999	7,615	50	n/a	7,665
2000	8,430	550	n/a	8,980
2001	8,305	980	n/a	9,285
2002	9,845	895	n/a	10,740
2003	11,250	1,755	n/a	13,005
2004	10,300	2,300	n/a	12,595
2005	10,355	2,905	465	13,730
2006	10,330	4,630	1,370	16,330
2007	8,140	2,540	2,025	12,705
2008	7,290	2,455	2,300	12,040
2009[8]	6,420	2,830	1,685	10,935
2010[8]	6,120	2,480	770	9,375

n/a = not applicable

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Figures exclude dependants.

[3] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[4] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[5] Since October 2006, figures include persons leaving under facilitated return schemes.

[6] Since January 1999, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some cases leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants Programme (since December 2004) and some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.

[7] Since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[8] Provisional figures. Figures will under-record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

Further information on asylum is available from the Control of Immigration publications available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics

Bigamy

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of bigamy were recorded in each year since 2007; and what proportion of such offences resulted in *(a)* court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* convictions and *(c)* sanction detections. [53442]

Nick Herbert: The information is not available in the form requested.

Figures for the number of offences of bigamy recorded by the police and the number detected by means of a sanction detection are given in the table. Statistics on court proceedings, including convictions, are a matter for the Ministry of Justice.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and count offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Offences of bigamy recorded by the police and detected by means of a sanction detection[1]—2007-08 to 2009-10

	Number of offences	*Number of sanction detections*	*Percentage detected by means of a sanction detection*
2007-08	74	33	45
2008-09	64	40	63
2009-10	60	39	65

[1] Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Crime

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate in *(a)* each police force and *(b)* England and Wales was in each year since 2007-08. [53397]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is given in the table.

Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

Detection rate for all offences recorded by the police in England and Wales[1]

			Percentage detected
Police force area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	25	27	29
Bedfordshire	22	26	26
British Transport Police	27	32	35
Cambridgeshire	27	25	27
Cheshire	26	29	25
Cleveland	33	38	40
Cumbria	38	40	41
Derbyshire	29	27	23
Devon and Cornwall	28	30	30
Dorset	27	25	24
Durham	29	30	33
Dyfed-Powys	42	44	48
Essex	32	35	34
Gloucestershire	32	31	30
Greater Manchester	25	25	25
Gwent	30	30	26
Hampshire	27	25	27
Hertfordshire	30	33	35
Humberside	31	30	28
Kent	27	32	33
Lancashire	35	34	35
Leicestershire	27	24	23

Detection rate for all offences recorded by the police in England and Wales[1]

Police force area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Percentage detected* *2009-10*
Lincolnshire	28	27	24
London, City of	36	36	36
Merseyside	32	36	39
Metropolitan Police	25	26	24
Norfolk	32	38	37
Northamptonshire	25	24	24
Northumbria	38	39	40
North Wales	40	43	43
North Yorkshire	33	31	31
Nottinghamshire	23	23	26
South Wales	26	28	30
South Yorkshire	27	29	31
Staffordshire	28	23	23
Suffolk	30	34	30
Surrey	27	22	21
Sussex	32	26	29
Thames Valley	25	24	20
Warwickshire	26	25	24
West Mercia	29	30	27
West Midlands	27	29	24
West Yorkshire	24	26	27
Wiltshire	27	31	30
England and Wales	28	28	28

[1] Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed per head of population in each police force area in each year since 2007-08. [53407]

Nick Herbert: The available information relates to the number of offences recorded by the police per 1,000 population and is given in the following table.

Rate of total recorded crime per 1,000 population, by police force area

Police force area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Rate per 1,000 population* *2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	93	87	79
Bedfordshire	88	77	70
Cambridgeshire	87	85	78
Cheshire	79	75	67
Cleveland	120	99	85
Cumbria	71	62	57
Derbyshire	78	74	68
Devon and Cornwall	68	62	56
Dorset	73	71	68
Durham	80	75	67
Dyfed-Powys	51	48	44
Essex	72	67	61
Gloucestershire	79	76	65
Greater Manchester	117	110	96
Gwent	87	88	91
Hampshire	90	87	77
Hertfordshire	76	71	65
Humberside	107	99	88
Kent	81	74	64
Lancashire	85	81	74
Leicestershire	91	89	83
Lincolnshire	75	72	67
London, City of	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Merseyside	94	87	80
Metropolitan Police	114	111	108
Norfolk	67	59	53
Northamptonshire	96	89	81
Northumbria	78	75	64
North Wales	68	68	66
North Yorkshire	64	62	54
Nottinghamshire	118	108	92
South Wales	101	95	83
South Yorkshire	113	100	86
Staffordshire	84	80	71
Suffolk	69	66	65
Surrey	64	60	58
Sussex	78	70	65
Thames Valley	91	90	84
Warwickshire	76	71	63
West Mercia	68	66	60
West Midlands	95	87	81
West Yorkshire	105	99	90
Wiltshire	70	65	59
England and Wales	91	86	79

[1] Not applicable.

Cycling: Fines

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalties were issued to cyclists for the offence of *(a)* carrying another person and *(b)* cycling on pavements in each police force area in each of the last three years; how many of the penalties were issued to cyclists aged over 14 years; and how many on-the-spot fines for cycling on the pavement were issued by each police force in each such year. [53448]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has paid to external consultants for the implementation and management of the activity-based costing scheme for police forces in each financial year since 2004-05. [53481]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of each contract. [53136]

Damian Green: The Home Office holds five major contracts with Serco.

		£ million
	End date	*Contract value*
Provision of RN Detection at UK borders	17 March	135
Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre	14 August	188
Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre	15 April	99
Confidential IT Network	14 June	28
National Border Targeting Centre and data centres	12 October	42

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against her Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54632]

Damian Green: The Home Office and its agencies do not hold the payment information in the required detail.

The payments mentioned are included within special payments, further details of which, for 2009-10, can be found in note 30(b) of the Home Office's Resource Accounts 2009-10 (HC193) and for 2008-09 in note 33(b) of the Home Office's Resource Accounts 2008-09 (HC466).

Figures for 2010-11 will be provided in the Home Office's 2010-11 Resource Accounts, to be published in July this year.

Departmental Meetings

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcomes were of the meeting of 17 March 2011 in her Department which was attended by 37 suppliers to her Department, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice and Nick Gargan. [50629]

Nick Herbert: Following the event held on 17 March 2011, engagement and work with suppliers is being commenced to understand how the commercial position with suppliers and the police service can be improved.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice her Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in her Department. [52800]

Damian Green: The Civil Service Summer Diversity Internship programme aims to provide high calibre undergraduates/graduates with a six to eight week training/work placement within Government departments. In its current format it provides opportunities for black and ethnic minority and (lower) socio-economic students. For more information please view:

www.faststream.gov.uk

applications open in December for the following summer.

Opportunities for work experience placements are quite limited but do arise occasionally. These placements are designed to help Year 10 or 11 students become familiar with work in general and are limited to one or two weeks. Students in year 10 or 11 interested in a placement in the Home Office will need to identify a specific area of interest and contact that area direct. For further information on the various areas within the Home Office please refer to our website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Alternatively, please look at the following website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/index.aspx

where further information can be found on other Government Departments and the civil service.

There is no centrally run scheme for those seeking to volunteer to work at the Home Office. Potential volunteers will need to identify an area of interest and contact that area direct to see if any volunteering opportunities are available.

Deportation: Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases the Minister for Immigration has exercised his discretion in a deportation case in the last year for which figures are available. [52683]

Damian Green: As the Minister for Immigration I have not intervened or exercised my discretion on any deportation cases in the last year.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice her Department has issued on the implications for public security of the provision of litter bins at *(a)* railway stations and *(b)* other public places. [53477]

Nick Herbert: The Government's Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) and the police National Counter-Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) provide advice on protective security measures for crowded places. This advice addresses a wide range of issues including how to minimise the risk to the public from litter bins.

Guidelines on blast hazards and appropriate protective security measures in relation to litter bins have been published by the Home Office Scientific and Development Branch (now the Centre for Applied Science and Technology) and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure. The guidelines include the advice that litter bins should not be placed near areas where large numbers of people congregate (such as meeting places in stations).

The CPNI website:

www.cpni.gov.uk

provides advice on the testing of the explosive resistance of litter bins, as well as a range of basic good security measures. This includes giving consideration to the location, cleaning regime and the removal of bins, as well as the use of clear plastic bags. Further information from NaCTSO is available on their website:

www.nactso.gov.uk

The railway industry is subject to requirements and guidance on the provision of litter bins at railway stations, regulated by the Department for Transport. Bins may be provided at the discretion of station operators, but where installed they are subject to specific security control measures, including on their design, location, and security management.

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motoring offences were dealt with by police in each police force area in each year since 2006. [53400]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation she has undertaken with *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* other interested parties on the effects of the proposed differential between students studying at further education colleges and universities in respect of hours of eligibility for part-time work. [54899]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* A public consultation on proposals for reform of the student route was conducted by the Home Office; this consultation closed on 31 January 2011. All the responses received during the consultation period shaped the final policy decisions that were taken, including on the ability for students to work during their studies. Full details of the final policy changes we are making to tier 4 are set out in the document "Student Visas—Statement of Intent and Transitional Measures", which was published on 31 March 2011. Copies are available in the House Library.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether international students studying higher education courses at further education colleges will be allowed to work for 20 hours a week on the same basis as their university counterparts under the proposed new regulations. [54901]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* In summer 2011, we will make the next set of changes to the student immigration system following on from the recent consultation on the route, including changes to the ability for students to work. Students sponsored by publicly-funded further education colleges will be given permission to work 10 hours per week during term-time, and full-time during vacations. Students studying at privately funded providers of further and higher education, and at English language schools will not be granted permission to work at any time during their studies. This is set out in the document "Student Visas—Statement of Intent and Transitional Measures", which was published on 31 March 2011. Copies are available in the House Library.

Homicide

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 871-2W, on homicide, what causal factors her Department has identified as underlying the fall in the rate of homicide between 2001-02 and 2009-10. [52502]

Nick Herbert: Analysis has not been conducted to identify specific causal factors underlying this reduction. However, trend analysis presented in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10" shows that there has been no or very little change over this period in the proportion of homicides by particular methods or relationship of the victim to principal suspect.

Further, the bulletin shows that following a general rise between 1997-98 and 2001-02, the homicide rate in 2009-10 has now returned to a similar level as 1997-98 (at 11.8 per million population).

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of human trafficking into the UK. [54534]

Damian Green: Victims of trafficking are formally identified through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). NRM statistical reports are published quarterly and can be found on the SOCA website at:

www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/statistical-data

Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2010 there were 1,254 potential victims of trafficking referred into the NRM.

Illegal Immigrants

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted leave to remain after *(a)* 10-years legal residence and *(b)* 14-years illegal residence in the UK in each year between 1997 and 2010. [54384]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of people granted leave to remain after making a long residency application for *(a)* 10-year legal residence and *(b)* 14 years illegal residence in the UK covering the period 1April 2003 to the 31 December 2010. The figures are separated by the year in which a decision was made.

The provision to grant indefinite leave to remain (ILR) on the basis of 14-year long term residence, along with that of 10-year long-term residence, was introduced into the immigration rules in April 2003. Therefore we are unable to provide data prior to this date.

Number of individuals granted leave to remain

	(a) 10-year legal residence	*(b) 14-year illegal residence*	*Total*
2003 (from April)	2,043	952	2,995
2004	2,260	781	3,041
2005	2,581	730	3,311
2006	3,391	799	4,190
2007	2,411	949	3,360
2008	2,148	902	3,050
2009	3,042	2,061	5,103
2010	4,759	1,774	6,533
	22,635	8,948	31,583

Note:

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Immigrants: English Language

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions she has made for the approval of English language test providers in the period between the withdrawal of the list of approved providers and the publication of a new list. [54391]

Damian Green: The new list of English language test providers was published on 6 April. Transitional arrangements have been put in place which will allow customers to use either the new list of providers or the existing list of providers for a specific period.

For tier 1 and tier 2 of the points-based system, the transitional arrangements apply to applications received by the UK Border Agency on or before 17 May 2011. For applications as a spouse or partner the application must be received on or before 17 July 2011. There are no transitional arrangements for tier 4 as the previous providers for tier 4 are all included on the new list along with two additional providers.

Interpreters

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what scale of fees was payable to interpreters by *(a)* the UK Border Agency and its predecessors and *(b)* each police force in respect of (i) illegal entry and (ii) criminal matters in each of the last five years; how much was paid for such services in each category in each such year; and what expenses are payable to such interpreters. [53456]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency interpreters are paid as shown in the following table:

UKBA interpreter fees

		£ per hour
Weekdays	First hour	48
	Then	[1]16
		[2]20
Saturdays	First hour	72
	Then	26
Sundays/Bank holidays	First hour	72
	Then	32

[1] Between 08:01 and 18:00
[2] Between 18:01 and 08:00

These fees have remained the same since 2002. UK Border Agency is unable to provide amounts of spend on specific areas of interpreter provision as interpreter events are not recorded in this manner.

Travel expenses are only paid for interpreters where they are travelling in excess of three hours each way.

The Home Office does not hold information regarding remuneration and reimbursement of expenses for interpreters working for police forces.

Kent Police Authority: Operating Costs

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the running cost of Kent Police Authority was in each of the last five years. [53682]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The Home Office does not hold this information, and this should be referred to the authority itself. However, according to Kent Police Authority's statement of accounts, Kent Police Authority gross expenditure in the year 2009-10 was £1,516,000.

Newspaper Press

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on newspapers and periodicals in each of the last three years. [53429]

Damian Green: The Home Office HQ purchases all newspapers, periodicals and trade profession journals via a framework agreement. Expenditure for the last three years is shown in the following tables. It should be noted that occasionally business areas purchase individual copies of particular newspapers or magazines to meet urgent business needs. These are funded from devolved budgets for which figures are not available, and they are therefore not included.

HOHQ and UKBA

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
2008-09	32,788.25
2009-10	38,833.14
2010-11	33,084.42

CRB

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
2008-09	2,672.00
2009-10	323.21
2010-11	640.72

IPS

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
2008-09	0
2009-10	0
2010-11	0

Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded per 1,000 population in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area for each type of offence in each year since 2007. [53420]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is shown in the tables placed in the House Library.

Passports

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incorrectly issued passports were seized by the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [54798]

Damian Green: The number of incorrectly issued UK passports detected and seized by the UK Border Agency at the UK border over the past five years is as follows:

	Number
2006	68
2007	92
2008	47

	Number
2009	33
2010	27

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incorrectly issued passports were returned voluntarily to the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five years. [54799]

Damian Green: The following figures provide the number of cases where customers have had passports issued incorrectly and have returned them to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) for the passport be amended.

The Identity and Passport Service do not record how these passports are returned to us, therefore some may have been returned at the request of IPS and some may have been returned as the customer has noticed the error themselves.

	Number of passports incorrectly issued	Total passports issued	Percentage of passports incorrectly issued
2006	11,352	6,317,839	0.18
2007	9,464	5,726,414	0.17
2008	7,949	5,293,681	0.15
2009	6,874	5,105,698	0.13
2010	6,203	5,341,034	0.12
Total	41,842	27,784,666	0.15

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of passports were incorrectly issued by the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five years. [54885]

Damian Green: The following figures provide the number of cases where customers have had passports issued incorrectly and have returned them to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) for the passport be amended.

	Number of passports incorrectly issued	Total passports issued	Percentage of passports incorrectly issued
2006	11,352	6,317,839	0.18
2007	9,464	5,726,414	0.17
2008	7,949	5,293,681	0.15
2009	6,874	5,105,698	0.13
2010	6,203	5,341,034	0.12
Total	41,842	27,784,666	0.15

Police

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules she plans to introduce to govern the funding of election campaigns for directly-elected police and crime commissioners. [53152]

Nick Herbert: There will be a clear and rigorous regulatory framework supporting police and crime commissioner elections, just as there are for other kinds of election. The Government are working closely with the Electoral Commission, representatives of local government and others to draw up these regulations, which will be set out in secondary legislation. Subject to the will of Parliament, they will be issued following Royal Assent to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations she plans to introduce to govern the elections of directly-elected police and crime commissioners. [53153]

Nick Herbert: As we have said, there will be a clear and rigorous regulatory framework supporting police and crime commissioner elections, just as there are for other kinds of election. It will be set out in secondary legislation, and issued following Royal Assent to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, subject to the will of Parliament.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police resources is allocated to traffic policing in each police force area; how many dedicated traffic police officers there were in each such area in each year since 2007-08; what recent discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on the number of dedicated traffic police officers; and if she will make a statement. [53369]

Nick Herbert: Available information relating to police officers whose primary function is listed as traffic in England and Wales from 2007-08 to 2009-10 is given in the following table.

Information on the proportion of police resources allocated to traffic policing is not available centrally. The Government allocate funding to Police Authorities as a whole and they, in discussion with the chief constable, judge local need and prioritise resources accordingly.

The Secretary of State has not had discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers on this issue because decisions on the deployment of officers to different functions are an operational matter for chief constables to determine.

Police officers FTE[1] whose main function is traffic[2] 2007-08 to 2009-10

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	160	168	157
Bedfordshire	65	56	57
Cambridgeshire	90	99	101
Cheshire	94	88	90
Cleveland	104	106	115
Cumbria	99	66	86
Derbyshire	109	89	88
Devon and Cornwall	232	236	239
Dorset	78	79	76
Durham	107	104	96
Dyfed-Powys	128	94	64
Essex	219	222	257
Gloucestershire	67	67	65
Greater Manchester	338	315	310
Gwent	57	49	63
Hampshire	214	187	181
Hertfordshire	152	151	139
Humberside	104	97	116
Kent	122	138	138
Lancashire	180	181	171

Police officers FTE[1] whose main function is traffic[2] 2007-08 to 2009-10

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Leicestershire	74	85	86
Lincolnshire	92	66	84
City of London	26	23	30
Merseyside	152	167	164
Metropolitan Police	612	290	297
Norfolk	116	109	102
Northamptonshire	60	63	68
Northumbria	165	164	169
North Wales	90	88	86
North Yorkshire	105	103	99
Nottinghamshire	144	139	47
South Wales	233	165	143
South Yorkshire	144	135	130
Staffordshire	34	30	67
Suffolk	81	72	67
Surrey	98	97	100
Sussex	160	166	159
Thames Valley	250	249	228
Warwickshire	93	14	10
West Mercia	128	119	101
West Midlands	352	351	351
West Yorkshire	283	297	315
Wiltshire	91	85	83
Total	6,299	5,714	5,634

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. The does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the costs of policing the annual party political conferences in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and from which budget these costs were met. [53382]

Nick Herbert: The actual costs of policing party political conferences are set out in the following table. These costs were met from the Home Office special grant budget.

Costs of policing the annual party political conferences

Financial year	*Political party*	*£ million*
2009-10	Labour	5.7
	Conservative	3.4
	Total	9.1
2010-11	Labour	3.3
	Conservative	3.5
	Liberal Democrat	1.2
	Total	8.0

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* were killed on duty and *(b)* received bravery awards in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 2005. [53392]

Nick Herbert: Available information relates to fatal assaults on police officers by police force area in England and Wales from 2004-05 to 2009-10 and is given in the table (the table indicates where forces did not make a statistical return for assaults).

The UK Honours System (including awards for merit, service or bravery) is managed by the Cabinet Office Honours and Appointments Secretariat and details of awards are published in the *London Gazette*. The number of police officers receiving such awards is not collected centrally within the police personnel statistics series.

Fatal assaults[1] on police officers 2004-05 to 2009-10

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	•	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	•	•
Cleveland	0	•	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	•	•	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	•	•	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	•	0	•	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	•	0	0	•
Greater Manchester	0	0	•	•	0	•
Gwent	0	0	•	0	0	0
Hampshire	•	0	•	0	0	•
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	•	0	1	0
Lancashire	0	•	•	0	0	0
Leicestershire	•	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police	•	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fatal assaults[1] on police officers 2004-05 to 2009-10

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Northamptonshire	0	0	*	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	*	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	*	*
Nottinghamshire	0	0	*	0	0	0
South Wales	0	0	*	*	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	*	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	*	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	*	0	0	0
West Midlands	*	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	*	*	0	0

* = Data unavailable/not provided by the police.

[1] These data are provisional and have not been validated with forces.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of abstraction of Metropolitan Police officers from each London borough for *(a)* counter-terrorism, *(b)* special operations and *(c)* public order event policing work was in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [53463]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not available centrally.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to support volunteers who *(a)* staff police stations and *(b)* undertake other voluntary work for police forces. [53469]

Nick Herbert: There are specific support systems in place to aid the growth of police support volunteer (PSV) programmes. In 2007, a Programme Board was established to assist in the development of PSV programmes in police forces across England and Wales. A PSV Business Plan issued by the PSV Programme Board was launched in September 2009, for the period 2009-13, which aims to promote and increase the use of PSVs.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on policing in each year since 1997. [53503]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is set out in the following table:

How much the Home Department has spent on policing since 1997

£ billion

Financial year	*Revenue funding England and Wales[1]*	*Capital funding England and Wales[2]*	*Total funding England and Wales*
1997-98	3.1	0.2	3.3
1998-99	3.3	0.1	3.4
1999-2000	3.3	0.1	3.4
2000-01	3.5	0.1	3.6
2001-02	3.8	0.2	3.9
2002-03	4.1	0.2	4.3
2003-04	4.6	0.2	4.8
2004-05	4.8	0.2	5.0
2005-06	5.0	0.2	5.2
2006-07	5.3	0.2	5.5
2007-08	5.6	0.2	5.8
2008-09	5.7	0.2	6.0
2009-10	5.9	0.2	6.1
2010-11[3]	5.9	0.2	6.2

[1] Figures comprise the Home Office Core Settlement and certain specific grants.

[2] Capital includes Air Support, Reserves and specific grants.

[3] Following in-year reductions (made to Capital and Rule 2 Grant).

Note:

From 2006-07 funding for pensions and security funding became specific grants.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sectionings under the Mental Health Act 1983 were initiated by a police officer of each police force in each of the last five years. [54256]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not reported centrally.

Police Custody

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the use of police custody suites to detain persons considered *(a)* mentally ill or held for their own protection and *(b)* drunk and disorderly. [53468]

Nick Herbert: The Government have no single policy on the use of police custody suites to detain individuals suffering from mental ill health or who are drunk and disorderly, as each case is considered individually and will be an operational matter for the police to assess. However, the National Policing Improvement Agency and the Association of Chief Police Officers published "Guidance on the Safer Detention and Handling of

Persons in Police Custody in 2006" which examined under what circumstances detention in police custody is appropriate and safe.

The police have specific powers under the Mental Health Act 1983 to remove someone suffering from mental ill health and in need of immediate care to a place of safety when necessary. A place of safety could be residential accommodation, a hospital, a police station, a specialist care home or other appropriate accommodation. However, guidance stipulates that a police station should only be used in exceptional circumstances and local protocols should exist to specify more appropriate locations.

For those under the influence of alcohol who have been identified as being a high medical risk, hospital should always be the first option. For others, police custody may be appropriate and a risk assessment on arrival will identify suitable healthcare, restraint, observation and rousing routines, as outlined in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Code of Practice C.

Police: Airports

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of policing each airport was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [53461]

Nick Herbert: The cost of uniformed police officers at airports is not held centrally. However, funding for Special Branch officers at ports is provided by the Home Office through counter-terrorism grants as a contribution to the police costs for specific national security functions. The grants paid to police forces towards the costs of funding their Special Branch officers at ports in the last five financial years were as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	71.4
2007-08	72.6
2008-09	77.1
2009-10	77.8
2010-11	76.3

Changes to arrangements for uniformed airport policing were introduced in the Policing and Crime Act 2009 (section 79, 80 and Schedule 6) and are being implemented for the 2011-12 financial year. Under the new arrangements, the airport operator, the local police and the relevant police authority should agree the level of policing required at airports.

The onus is on the airport operator to meet the costs in full where a dedicated policing presence is required.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials of her Department have been assigned to duties with the objective of reducing the burden of administration on police forces in each of the last 10 years. [53493]

Nick Herbert: There are many areas of Home Office business which relate to reducing the burden of administration on police forces and numbers of staff in these areas change throughout each year. However, there are currently two members of staff in the Home Office who have specific responsibility for co-ordinating the work to reduce unnecessary police bureaucracy.

The Home Office works with other policing partners to reduce bureaucracy through the Reducing Bureaucracy Programme Board, which is chaired by the Association of Chief Police Officers. Areas also represented on this Programme Board are Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, the National Policing Improvement Agency and the Association of Police Authorities.

Police: Corruption

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of corruption involving police officers which involved illegal drugs there were in each of the last five years. [53425]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not available centrally.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were brought against police forces by members of the public for *(a)* malicious prosecution, *(b)* false imprisonment and *(c)* assault in each year since 1997; how many such cases were decided in favour of the complainant; and how much compensation was paid in respect of each such case. [53487]

Nick Herbert: There are no criminal offences for *(a)* malicious prosecution, *(b)* false imprisonment and *(c)* assault specifically by the police and the Home Office does not hold information relating to civil cases.

Data on complaints, however, were collected by the Home Office up until April 2004 and are available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hosb1704.pdf

This contains tables on proportions of complaints that were substantiated (Tables 5, 6), and by the type of proceedings which resulted (Table 8). Table 8 breaks down substantiated complaints by reason for complaint.

Since April 2004 data on complaints have been collected by the Independent Police Complaints Commission and are available at:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/en/Pages/default.aspx

The IPCC data contain statistics relating to the number of allegations recorded against police officers and the outcomes of completed investigations for unlawful/unnecessary arrest or detention and assault. The IPCC does not hold statistics on malicious prosecution.

It is entirely at the discretion of the chief constable as to how to respond to any claims for compensation. The Home Office does not therefore collate any figures on this, although individual police forces may hold these data.

Police: Drugs

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of those brought into a police station tested positively for class A drugs in each year since 2007-08; and what proportion of those voluntarily agreed to treatment. [53385]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police: Expenditure

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of the work of police forces with *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* voluntary organisations and *(c)* local authorities in 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [54701]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The Government have been clear that police forces must use their resources to good effect and achieve value for money. However, spending decisions are for the chief constable and police authority to make locally and data about the cost of working with the NHS, voluntary organisations and local authorities are therefore not collected centrally.

Police: Firearms

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have received firearm injuries while on duty *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each police force area in each year since 2007. [53384]

Nick Herbert: Available information relates to offences recorded by the police in England and Wales between 2006-07 and 2009-10 where a firearm (excluding air weapons) was fired and the victim was an on-duty police officer. The police force area data are provided in Table A. England and Wales data were published in Table 2c in 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10' on 20 January 2011 at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0111/hosb0111?view=Binary

Table A: Crimes recorded by the police in which a firearm (excluding air weapons) was fired and the victim was an on-duty police officer, England and Wales, 2006-07 to 2009-10

Number of offences

	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
		Resulted in:			Resulted in:			Resulted in:			Resulted in:	
Police force area	Total	Injury[1]	Fatal injury	Total	In injury[1]	Fatal injury	Total	Injury[1]	Fatal injury	Total	Injury[1]	Fatal injury
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North East Region	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	3	1	—	2	1	—	4	—	—	2	2	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	7	7	—	4	2	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	2	1	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West Region	6	3	—	13	9	—	8	2	—	2	2	—
Humberside	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	3	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	4	3	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	2	1	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Midlands Region	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	1	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	5	5	—	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands Region	6	5	—	7	5	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	3	—

Table A: Crimes recorded by the police in which a firearm (excluding air weapons) was fired and the victim was an on-duty police officer, England and Wales, 2006-07 to 2009-10

Number of offences

	2006-07			*2007-08*			*2008-09*			*2009-10*		
		Resulted in:			*Resulted in:*			*Resulted in:*			*Resulted in:*	
Police force area	*Total*	*Injury*[1]	*Fatal injury*	*Total*	*In injury*[1]	*Fatal injury*	*Total*	*Injury*[1]	*Fatal injury*	*Total*	*Injury*[1]	*Fatal injury*
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East of England Region	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	3	3	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan	5	3	—	6	1	—	10	4	—	9	9	—
London Region	5	3	—	6	1	—	10	4	—	9	9	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	3	—	—
South East Region	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	3	—	—
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South West Region	4	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wales	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	27	20	—	34	19	1	26	9	—	22	16	—

[1] Includes fatal, serious (which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds) and slight injuries.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many operations firearms were issued to police officers in England and Wales in each year since 2005; in how many such operations weapons were discharged by police officers; how many police officers were qualified to carry firearms in each such year; and how many police officers in each police force area were armed while on duty in each such year. [53394]

Nick Herbert: Figures on the police use of firearms are published as part of the annual data requirement. The last figures for 2008-09 were published on 5 March 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-use-firearms/

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were found guilty of offences of unlawful killing using firearms in each of the last 20 years. [53451]

Nick Herbert: Home Office checks have found no cases of police officers having been found guilty of offences of unlawful killing using firearms in each of the last 20 years.

Police: Harrow

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed in Harrow in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [54310]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* Available data relates to police officer strength for Harrow basic command unit from 31 March 2008 to 31 March 2010.

The latest annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin was published in July 2010 and relates to 2009-10. It can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1410/?view=Standard&pubID=864832

Bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police: Internet

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in the integration of IT systems used by *(a)* police forces and *(b)* other policing bodies. [53467]

Nick Herbert: As well as an increasing number of national Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems that already exist (Annex A), the process of convergence of police IT through the Information Systems Improvement Strategy (ISIS) over the four years of the spending review has already begun.

ISIS will allow forces to purchase standardised ICT services from a smaller number of suppliers. This will mean that police ICT is increasingly integrated, cheaper and better supports interoperability and collaboration between forces.

Current national Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems

System	*Purpose*
National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS)	The NFLMS holds data on firearms licences at police force area level for police forces in England and Wales. It does not cover the whole of the UK.
Police National Computer (PNC)	The PNC is a critical national service which the Police Service and many others in the Criminal Justice System, rely on in order to perform their jobs effectively and safely. It contains records from a number of separate information databases.
Airwave	Airwave is the UK's secure radio service used by the police, fire and ambulance services as well as other public safety organisations.
Visor	Visor is a secure register of dangerous persons used by police, probation and prisons to manage violent and sex offenders, especially cross-border.
Police National Database	The PND is an ICT system that allows the whole of the Police Service to share, access and search local force information drawn from crime, custody, intelligence, child abuse and domestic abuse systems. It is currently in the process of being rolled out.

Police: Manpower

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of employing police officers as a proportion of the total budget for each police force in England was in each year since 1990. [53386]

Nick Herbert: The information from 2001-02 until 2009-10 (the latest available) is set out in the table.

Information prior to 2001-02 is available only at a disproportionate cost.

Table showing proportion of total revenue expenditure spent on police officer salaries by individual police forces in England

Percentage

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	49	49	50	47	46	59	57	52	53
Bedfordshire	52	51	53	49	46	57	59	56	54
Cambridgeshire	50	49	47	46	38	54	58	57	52
Cheshire	52	53	51	46	48	61	59	54	54
City of London	50	51	54	53	52	62	57	55	53
Cleveland	49	49	46	48	48	64	58	58	57
Cumbria	49	49	51	49	48	59	60	56	51
Derbyshire	52	51	54	51	49	64	61	57	57
Devon and Cornwall	50	47	50	47	46	59	57	51	53
Dorset	47	48	48	45	45	57	58	57	53
Durham	54	56	58	55	52	70	56	63	60
Essex	52	53	53	50	49	62	60	58	57
Gloucestershire	50	50	49	47	47	59	58	53	55
Greater Manchester	54	56	58	47	51	60	66	62	61
Hampshire	49	55	53	47	43	59	61	58	55
Hertfordshire	51	49	47	45	44	57	56	53	51
Humberside	54	56	56	52	49	65	61	58	56
Kent	51	52	51	51	42	59	57	54	55
Lancashire	52	52	53	50	49	63	61	59	61
Leicestershire	55	54	54	53	52	61	65	62	60
Lincolnshire	50	50	50	46	47	55	57	55	50
Merseyside	51	52	56	53	51	65	64	65	64
Metropolitan Police	50	50	51	48	46	59	58	57	57
Norfolk	47	45	46	44	42	53	52	48	51
North Yorkshire	48	50	51	50	45	56	54	52	51
Northamptonshire	48	47	46	44	41	49	52	50	50
Northumbria	53	54	56	54	51	67	64	63	63
Nottinghamshire	51	51	55	51	49	64	63	59	58
South Yorkshire	55	54	55	53	50	64	62	59	55
Staffordshire	52	52	52	46	45	62	61	56	56
Suffolk	49	49	48	44	44	56	60	58	54
Surrey	51	48	46	41	40	51	49	46	42
Sussex	48	48	47	44	43	54	54	50	49
Thames Valley	49	47	47	40	43	58	55	52	52
Warwickshire	51	51	47	42	40	62	62	60	46

Table showing proportion of total revenue expenditure spent on police officer salaries by individual police forces in England

									Percentage
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
West Mercia	48	49	52	51	48	59	59	56	55
West Midlands	56	57	58	55	52	64	68	63	61
West Yorkshire	48	50	51	49	48	59	57	54	57
Wiltshire	48	47	46	43	42	55	51	49	49

Notes:

1. All proportions derived from data from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's annual Police Statistics publication.

2. The suture of funding for police pensions changed in 2006-07 which is likely to be a key reason for the noticeable difference in proportions between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civilian staff have been employed in England and Wales, broken down by police force area in each year since 2007. [53401]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Police staff[1] strength[2] in England and Wales by police force as at 31 March 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 30 September 2010

	As at 31 March				
Police force	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*30 September 2010*
Avon and Somerset	2,208	2,289	2,176	1,871	1,896
Bedfordshire	744	724	764	825	820
Cambridgeshire	922	892	990	1,038	993
Cheshire	1,262	1,406	1,480	1,480	1,439
Cleveland	711	701	725	700	713
Cumbria	743	773	811	794	761
Derbyshire	1,204	1,266	1,288	1,225	1,189
Devon and Cornwall	2,046	2,147	1,790	1,766	1,730
Dorset	973	959	984	1,027	993
Durham	762	816	925	881	855
Essex	1,918	1,986	2,087	2,075	1,981
Gloucestershire	718	700	708	729	725
Greater Manchester	3,369	3,534	3,861	3,927	3,822
Hampshire	2,354	2,430	2,352	2,271	2,260
Hertfordshire	1,501	1,490	1,549	1,481	1,409
Humberside	1,213	1,313	1,404	1,415	1,403
Kent	2,285	2,337	2,430	2,381	2,280
Lancashire	1,802	1,927	1,982	1,957	1,906
Leicestershire	1,141	1,142	1,218	1,151	1,130
Lincolnshire	720	760	616	879	873
London, City of	319	299	297	310	325
Merseyside	2,173	2,203	2,221	2,117	2,101
Metropolitan Police	14,016	14,085	14,177	14,179	14,047
Norfolk	1,059	1,053	1,072	1,072	1,018
Northamptonshire	1.009	1,024	1,151	1,161	1,120
Northumbria	1,711	1,863	2,068	2,010	1,972
North Yorkshire	1,128	1,079	1,095	1,159	1,153
Nottinghamshire	1,370	1,372	1,505	1,567	1,507
South Yorkshire	1,978	2,038	2,120	2,304	2,311
Staffordshire	1,287	1,309	1,315	1,315	1,234
Suffolk	847	614	668	922	913
Surrey	1,680	1,808	1,732	1,829	1,854
Sussex	1,994	1,974	2,080	2,139	2,133
Thames Valley	2,756	2,772	2,897	2,930	2,885
Warwickshire	624	629	688	765	744
West Mercia	1,618	1,647	1,722	1,715	1,686
West Midlands	3.348	3,436	3,570	3,667	3,544
West Yorkshire	3,077	3,247	3,483	3,539	3,464
Wiltshire	859	879	854	833	801
Dyfed-Powys	606	625	633	692	671
Gwent	805	855	855	810	815
North Wales	759	774	823	876	845
South Wales	1,559	1,575	1,728	1,810	1,800
Total 43 Forces	75,176	76,948	79,296	79,595	78,120

[1] Police stall excludes designated officers, police community support officers and traffic wardens,

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each police force in each year since 2008. [53423]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Police officer strength in England and Wales by police force as at 31 March 2008, 2009, 2010 and 30 September 2010

	As at 31 March			
Police force	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*30 September 2010*
Avon and Somerset	3,407	3,355	3,302	3,264
Bedfordshire	1,207	1,244	1,246	1,242
Cambridgeshire	1,379	1,450	1,471	1,441
Cheshire	2,181	2,180	2,142	2,148
Cleveland	1,692	1,756	1,724	1,694
Cumbria	1,246	1,284	1,238	1,220
Derbyshire	2,095	2,137	2,074	2,076
Devon and Cornwall	3,529	3,556	3,561	3,526
Dorset	1,518	1,512	1,486	1,478
Durham	1,632	1,588	1,507	1,463
Essex	3,385	3,484	3,606	3,639
Gloucestershire	1,353	1,372	1,309	1,295
Greater Manchester	8,034	8,232	8,148	7,976
Hampshire	3,912	3,811	3,748	3,702
Hertfordshire	2,162	2,172	2,130	2,092
Humberside	2,243	2,110	2,058	2,001
Kent	3,718	3,799	3,834	3,741
Lancashire	3,675	3,753	3,649	3,549
Leicestershire	2,241	2,363	2,317	2,258
Lincolnshire	1,201	1,229	1,206	1,197
London, City of	830	813	852	878
Merseyside	4,477	4,494	4,516	4,414
Metropolitan Police	31,460	32,610	33,367	32,900
Norfolk	1,578	1,668	1,665	1,631
Northamptonshire	1,309	1,326	1,343	1,337
Northumbria	3,983	4,111	4,187	4,144
North Yorkshire	1,581	1,460	1,486	1,452
Nottinghamshire	2,369	2,408	2,409	2,379
South Yorkshire	3,201	3,053	2,953	2,977
Staffordshire	2,269	2,211	2,161	2,116
Suffolk	1,319	1,291	1,246	1,272
Surrey	1,944	1,872	1,890	1,864
Sussex	3,075	3,196	3,213	3,177
Thames Valley	4,186	4,317	4,434	4,412
Warwickshire	1,036	994	973	949
West Mercia	2,486	2,471	2,391	2,303
West Midlands	8,412	8,637	8,626	8,485
West Yorkshire	5,822	5,854	5,759	5,673
Wiltshire	1,210	1,229	1,181	1,138
Dyfed-Powys	1,194	1,197	1,195	1,175
Gwent	1,487	1,438	1,437	1,508
North Wales	1,579	1,586	1,590	1,558
South Wales	3,244	3,146	3,148	3,108
Total 43 Forces	141,859	143,770	143,776	141,850

Note:

This table contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues to police forces on the involvement of serving police officers in recruitment processes for police officers; and which forces *(a)* do and *(b)* do not engage serving officers in their recruitment processes. [54257]

Nick Herbert: The involvement of police officers in any part of police officer recruitment process is a matter for the chief officer. Guidance on marking police officer application forms or managing police recruitment assessment centres does not stipulate the involvement of serving police officers.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) maintains a database of trained police officer recruit assessment centre assessors which shows that:

(a) 42 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales have reported to the NPIA having police officers who have been trained to assess one or more exercises at the police officer recruit assessment centre.

(b) Essex police has not reported to the NPIA any police officers trained to assess any of the police officer recruit assessment centre exercises.

It should be noted that the accuracy of the database is dependent upon the accuracy of information passed onto the NPIA by assessors as it is self reported data. The database may also include officers who have trained but who have subsequently left the force. This information does not reflect the levels of deployment or engagement of serving police officers in the police officer recruit assessment centre or any other part of the police officer recruit process.

Police: Overtime

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average overtime payments for police officers were in each police force in England and Wales for each year since 2007-08. [53396]

Nick Herbert: Information about police service expenditure, including overtime, is available on the website of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants:

www.cipfastats.net

Two tables follow: Table 1 shows the past spend on police officer overtime by force; Table 2 calculates overtime spend by officer, based on data from Table 1 and police officer strength recorded in Home Office Annual Data Returns.

Table 1: Spend on overtime by force

£ million

Force	*Spend on officer overtime* 2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	6.996	6.535	6.239
Bedfordshire	3.993	3.962	4.079
Cambridgeshire	4.238	4.584	3.37
Cheshire	6.925	4.425	4.554
Cleveland	4.369	3.813	3.306
Cumbria	2.444	1.712	1.359
Derbyshire	4.854	4.256	3.533
Devon and Cornwall	6.548	6.467	5.12
Dorset	3.243	3.181	2.608
Durham	3.596	2.702	2.678
Dyfed-Powys	2.566	2.329	2.339
Essex	11.732	9.623	7.714
Gloucestershire	3.353	2.662	3.519
Greater Manchester	23.322	23.319	24.257
Gwent	4.134	3.548	3.299
Hampshire	11.48	8.871	8.091
Hertfordshire	7.272	6.159	5.663
Humberside	6.874	5.402	5.598
Kent	6.548	10.084	7.055
Lancashire	8.918	7.801	7.004
Leicestershire	5.476	5.169	4.527
Lincolnshire	3.708	2.68	2.49
London, City of	2.731	2.141	2.342
Merseyside	11.071	10.8465	10.853
Metropolitan Police	144.957	137.876	*
Norfolk	4.201	3.298	3.034
Northamptonshire	3.478	2.829	2.463
Northumbria	7.878	7.424	8.138
North Wales	3.626	2.738	3.056
North Yorkshire	2.996	2.477	3.992
Nottinghamshire	5.036	5.469	6.057
South Wales	6.827	6.449	6.18
South Yorkshire	10.167	8.329	9.209
Staffordshire	5.104	4.969	5.277
Suffolk	3.543	2.856	2.1
Surrey	5.93	4.643	4.875
Sussex	5.946	6.598	6.684
Thames Valley	13.762	*	10.767
Warwickshire	3.753	3.33	2.341
West Mercia	5.56	5.77	4.864
West Midlands	24.152	21.301	17.95
West Yorkshire	18.128	13,79	12.496
Wiltshire	2.719	3.18	1.654

* Data unavailable

Source:

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Table 2: Overtime spend per officer

Force	*Officer strength FTE at 31 March of financial year*[1] 2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	*Spend per officer (£)* 2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	3,407	3,355	3,302	2,054	1,948	1,889
Bedfordshire	1,207	1,246	1,246	3,309	3,180	3,274
Cambridgeshire	1,380	1,450	1,471	3,072	3,162	2,291
Cheshire	2,181	2,180	2,155	3,175	2,030	2,113
Cleveland	1,692	1,756	1,724	2,582	2,171	1,918
Cumbria	1,246	1,284	1,238	1,961	1,333	1,098
Derbyshire	2,095	2,137	2,074	2,317	1,992	1,703
Devon and Cornwall	3,529	3,556	3,556	1,855	1,819	1,440
Dorset	1,518	1,512	1,486	2,137	2,104	1,755
Durham	1,632	1,589	1,507	2,203	1,701	1,777
Dyfed-Powys	1,194	1,197	1,195	2,149	1,945	1,957
Essex	3,385	3,484	3,606	3,466	2,762	2,139
Gloucestershire	1,353	1,371	1,309	2,478	1,942	2,688
Greater Manchester	8,034	8,232	8,148	2,903	2,833	2,977
Gwent	1,487	1,438	1,437	2,781	2,467	2,296
Hampshire	3,912	3,811	3,748	2,934	2,328	2,159
Hertfordshire	2,162	2,172	2,130	3,364	2,835	2,659

Table 2: Overtime spend per officer

	Officer strength FTE at 31 March of financial year[1]			*Spend per officer (£)*		
Force	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Humberside	2,243	2,110	2,058	3,064	2,560	2,720
Kent	3,718	3,799	3,787	1,761	2,655	1,863
Lancashire	3,675	3,753	3,649	2,427	2,079	1,919
Leicestershire	2,241	2,363	2,317	2,443	2,187	1,954
Lincolnshire	1,201	1,229	1,206	3,086	2,180	2,065
London, City of	830	813	852	3,288	2,632	2,749
Merseyside	4,477	4,494	4,516	2,473	2,414	2,403
Metropolitan Police	31,460	32,610	33,367	4,608	4,228	*
Norfolk	1,575	1,668	1,662	2,668	1,977	1,826
Northamptonshire	1,309	1,326	1,343	2,657	2,133	1,834
Northumbria	3,983	4,111	4,187	1,978	1,806	1,944
North Wales	1,579	1,586	1,590	2,297	1,726	1,922
North Yorkshire	1,581	1,460	1,486	1,895	1,697	2,686
Nottinghamshire	2,369	2,408	2,409	2,125	2,271	2,514
South Wales	3,244	3,146	3,148	2,104	2,050	1,963
South Yorkshire	3,201	3,053	2,953	3,176	2,728	3,119
Staffordshire	2,269	2,211	2,161	2,249	2,248	2,442
Suffolk	1,319	1,291	1,246	2,687	2,212	1,685
Surrey	1,944	1,872	1,890	3,051	2,480	2,579
Sussex	3,075	3,196	3,213	1,934	2,065	2,080
Thames Valley	4,186	4,317	4,434	3,288	*	2,428
Warwickshire	1,036	994	973	3,624	3,352	2,406
West Mercia	2,486	2,471	2,391	2,236	2,335	2,034
West Midlands	8,412	8,637	8,626	2,871	2,466	2,081
West Yorkshire	5,822	5,854	5,758	3,114	2,356	2,170
Wiltshire	1,210	1,250	1,181	2,247	2,544	1,401

* Data unavailable

[1] Source of officer strength data: Home Office Annual Data Returns

Note:

It should be noted that some officers will claim no overtime during a year, but the Home Office does hold information on the number of these officers.

Police: Riot Control Weapons

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of occasions CS gas spray has been used in public order operations by police. [53184]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Police: Rural Areas

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the use of mobile police units in policing rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [53465]

Nick Herbert: Decisions about the policing of rural areas, including the use of mobile police units, are operational matters and are the responsibility of the chief officer of the force concerned.

Police: Training

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer recruits in England and Wales began residential training in each year since 2006. [53433]

Nick Herbert: No new police officer recruits have begun residential training since 2006.

From 1 April 2006 a new qualification for police constables was introduced called the Diploma in Policing. This qualification is part of the overall Initial Policing Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP), which is managed by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) but delivered locally by each individual police force. The national residential sites for the delivery of police training closed, with effect from May 2006.

Police: Working Hours

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of police hours saved attributable to the introduction of personal digital assistants for police officers. [53478]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally. However, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has been evaluating the effect that personal digital assistants have had on police officers' use of time. Findings should be available later in the year.

Prince William: Marriage

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department is taking to protect the wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton from terrorist threat; [52178]

(2) what recent discussions she has had on security arrangements for the wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton. [52179]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department held a number of discussions on the counter terrorism and public order policing arrangements for the royal wedding, including briefing from senior officers in the Metropolitan Police Service.

However, it is our policy not to provide detailed information on the policing operation or security arrangements. To do so would risk compromising the integrity of those arrangements.

Security: Olympic Games 2012

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firms will be engaged to provide security services during the London 2012 Olympics. [52667]

Nick Herbert: Beyond the responsibilities of the police and security agencies, provision of security services during the 2012 Games are principally a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). On 21 March 2011, LOCOG announced that it had appointed G4S Secure Solutions Ltd as Official Security Service Provider for the Games. G4S's role will cover a range of security provision including search and screening at venue entrances, perimeter and mobile protection, and CCTV monitoring. Rapiscan Systems were appointed on 3 March 2011 as Official Provider of security screening solutions for the Games.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the readiness of the police and security forces responsible for public protection during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games; and if she will make a statement. [53787]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The Home Office's Olympic and Paralympic safety and security strategy, run by the police, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic games (LOCOG), the Olympic Delivery Authority and other partners, provides a framework for projects to safeguard and secure London 2012. The police and security services already invest significant resource into planning for security and other major risks to the UK, and have considerable expertise in dealing with both threats and incidents. Our approach to the games is intelligence-led and risk-based, giving us the flexibility to respond to any changes between now and 2012. Regular threat assessments inform our risk management process. Threat levels may change rapidly, and by basing the plans against a SEVERE threat level we maximise our flexibility.

Last year the Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism, my noble Friend Baroness Neville-Jones, conducted an audit and review of Olympic security planning, and that concluded that that work is well placed. There is of course more work to be done, but an effective foundation has already been established. We have protected the Olympic security budget, which is in addition to core funding for the police and counter-terrorism.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* Metropolitan Police and *(b)* security forces on the performance indicators for private sector companies contracted to protect the public during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [53831]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The use of private security companies to protect Olympic and Paralympic venues is principally a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). On 21 March 2011, LOCOG announced that it had appointed G4S Secure Solutions Ltd as Official Security Service provider for the Games.

The Home Office is fully involved in monitoring and overseeing all aspects of Olympic preparations and together with the police work closely with LOCOG to provide advice on venue security requirements (including security personnel requirements) and to ensure integration with the wider safety and security operation. The Home Secretary and the Security Minister are closely involved in security planning and attend regular meetings and briefings on the wider security programme.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to evaluate the competence of private security companies contracted for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [53832]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The use of private security companies to protect Olympic and Paralympic venues is principally a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). On 21 March 2011, LOCOG announced that it had appointed G4S Secure Solutions Ltd as Official Security Service provider for the Games. The Home Office and police work closely with LOCOG to provide advice on venue security requirements (including security personnel requirements) and to ensure integration with the wider safety and security operation. There are robust systems in place for monitoring and overseeing all aspects of Olympic preparations and the Home Office is fully involved in these.

Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland regarding dissident republican terrorism; [52071]

(2) what recent discussions she has had on the threat to the security of Great Britain from dissident republican terrorists. [52183]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, takes a keen interest in issues related to Residual Terrorist Groups in Northern Ireland, not least given the increase in the threat level posed by Northern Irish Related Terrorism to Great Britain since September 2010. She is regularly briefed on the threat and has meetings with officials and Ministers, including the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to discuss a range of related matters. Details of these meetings cannot be disclosed.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Justice Minister of the Northern Ireland Executive regarding dissident republican terrorism. [52072]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), takes a keen interest in issues related to Residual Terrorist Groups in Northern Ireland, not least given the increase in the threat level posed by Northern Irish Related Terrorism to Great Britain since September 2010. She is regularly briefed on the threat and has meetings with officials and Ministers, including the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to discuss a range of related matters.

Vetting

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many and what proportion of record checks processed by the Criminal Records Bureau chief police officers in each police force area had entered comments on otherwise clean reports in each year since 2002. [53452]

Nick Herbert: Only the enhanced level Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check will involve a check of information held locally by police forces.

The number and proportion of certificates issued by the CRB for each financial year since 2002-03, where a chief officer of a police force has included information as 'other relevant information' and where no other information was included on the certificate can be found in the table as follows. Please note that the following figures represent the number of certificates issued and not the number of applicants as an individual may have been issued with more than one certificate.

Financial year	*Total certificate volumes*	*Certificates which contained 'other relevant information only'*	*Proportion of certificates issued with 'other relevant information' only (percentage)*
2002-03	1,437,094	4,294	0.30
2003-04	2,284,688	7,156	0.31
2004-05	2,430,937	7,520	0.31
2005-06	2,770,265	10,126	0.37
2006-07	3,277,957	9,407	0.29
2007-08	3,323,334	9,648	0.29
2008-09	3,853,686	11,073	0.29
2009-10	4,299,906	12,833	0.30
2010-11	4,311,820	13,194	0.31

Video Conferencing

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will set a target to increase the use of video conferencing by her Department's officials as an alternative to staff travel to meetings. [53450]

Damian Green: The Home Office encourages staff to avoid unnecessary travel, including through the use of telephone and video conferencing, and to use the most cost-effective means where they do need to travel to a meeting. Telephone and video-conferencing arrangements are already used routinely across the Department and further improvements are under way to reduce costs and encourage greater use of these facilities. While there are no current plans to set targets for use of such facilities, the impact of these changes will be monitored.

Young Offenders

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were committed by juvenile offenders in each year since 1997. [53436]

Nick Herbert: There are two sources of statistics on crime in England and Wales: police recorded crime and the British Crime Survey (BCS). Police recorded crime is based on offences reported to and recorded by the police. The BCS is a sample survey restricted to the population resident in households but includes crimes not reported to the police. While both sources provide estimates of the number of offences experienced by victims they cover, neither source can be used to provide counts of the characteristics (e.g. age) of offenders.

Information on offenders dealt with by the criminal justice system is available from the Ministry of Justice. Latest figures including trends for juvenile offenders dealt with by formal police cautions, reprimands or warning, or criminal court proceedings in England and Wales appear in the annual statistical bulletin 'Criminal Statistics: England and Wales 2009' or 'Youth Justice Board annual workload statistics 2009-10'. Copies of these reports are available from the House of Commons Library.

EDUCATION

Children: Day Care

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of child care *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14. [54398]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The Department for Education has no estimate of the average child care costs for 2011/12 to 2013/14. However, annual statistics on the average fees charged by providers are published by the Department in the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Providers. The 2008 report includes national and regional figures. Figures for 2010 will be published in the autumn.

Average hourly fees charged by region

£

	Full day care	*Full day care in children's centres*	*Sessional*	*Childminders*
Overall mean average hourly fee	3.50	3.30	2.30	3.60
East midlands	3.60	—	—	[1]3.20
East	3.50	—	2.30	3.60
London	4,60	—	2.40	4.30
North-east	3.20	—	—	3.20
Yorkshire and Humberside	3.00	—	2.20	3.20
North-west	3.60	—	2.10	[1]3.00
South-east	3.50	—	2.60	3.80

Average hourly fees charged by region

£

	Full day care	Full day care in children's centres	Sessional	Childminders
South-west	3.30	—	2.30	[1]3.60
West midlands	2.90	—	—	[1]3.00

[1] Figures should be treated with caution due to a low number of providers in the subsample.

Note:

No regional figures are available for full day care in children's centres. No figures are provided in relation to sessional providers in some regions owing to insufficient sample size.

Base:

Module B childcare providers 2008. Childminders 2008.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he has allocated to discretionary learner support for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [54009]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 May 2011]*: From September 2011, financial support for young people will be through the new 16-19 Bursary Fund, which will be worth £180 million each academic year. The following table shows the funding allocated to the 16-19 Bursary Fund—including transitional support for those currently in receipt of the education maintenance allowance—in each year of the current spending review period:

£ million

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Transitional support	124.1	70.1	—	—
16-19 bursary fund	77	158.5	180	180
Total	201.1	228.6	180.0	180.0

Education Maintenance Allowance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the saving to the public purse of reducing to £20 education maintenance allowance payments for the 2010-11 intake of students in the top payment band. [52669]

Mr Gibb: We estimate that just over 210,000 young people who received £30 a week EMA in 2010/11 will remain in learning in 2011/12 and be eligible for the £20 a week transitional payment for that academic year. Given the typical numbers of payments received by EMA recipients we estimate savings of around £56 million in the 2011/12 academic year through the reduction of the payment from £30 to £20.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students were enrolled on a course of study in 2009-10 will continue to receive the top rate of education maintenance allowance in the next academic year. [52670]

Mr Gibb: All students who received the maximum education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the first time in 2009/10 and who remain in eligible education or training in 2011/12 will continue to receive that level of payment to the end of the 2011/12 academic year. We estimate that around 80,000 young people will continue to receive the maximum EMA payment on this basis in 2011/12.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether Capita will be responsible for administering *(a)* 16-19 education bursaries and *(b)* continuing education maintenance allowance payments for those students. [54010]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 May 2011]*: The 16-19 bursary funding will be administered locally by schools, colleges and training organisations. The weekly payments made under the transitional support scheme will be administered by Capita, under the contract it holds with the Young People's Learning Agency.

Education: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 281W, on education: finance, whether he has made an estimate of the likely cost to *(a)* schools, *(b)* colleges and *(c)* other training providers of administering a discretionary support fund for 16 to 19 learners. [54418]

Mr Gibb: We do not anticipate that the cost to schools, colleges and training providers of administering the 16-19 Bursary Fund will be any greater, proportionally, than those incurred in relation to the current discretionary learner support fund. Schools, colleges and training providers are able currently to use up to 5% of their allocation of discretionary funds to meet the costs of administering the scheme; this will continue following the introduction of the 16-19 Bursary Fund. By way of comparison, the costs of administering the EMA scheme nationally are also around 5% of the total expenditure.

Further Education: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his assessment is of the effectiveness of conditional cash transfer schemes in post-16 education. [52920]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has not conducted a formal assessment of the general effectiveness of conditional cash transfer schemes in post-16 education. Evaluation and other evidence relating to the education maintenance allowance—an example of a conditional cash transfer scheme—was considered in making the decision to end that scheme and introduce, from September 2011, the new 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether 16 to 19 education bursaries will be paid directly to *(a)* the student or *(b)* a parent. [52921]

Mr Gibb: Under our proposed arrangements for the 16-19 Bursary Fund, schools, colleges and training providers will have discretion to award bursaries to students in ways that best fit individual needs and circumstances. We expect that, as under current learner support arrangements, support will usually be given directly to students.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average household income is of those who will receive a full bursary from his Department's 16-19 education fund who are in care. [52925]

Mr Gibb: Young people in care will receive a bursary of £1,200 a year under the new arrangements. The Department does not hold information regarding their household income and we do not expect providers to ask for evidence of household income for young people in this vulnerable group.

Further Education: Free School Meals

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children *(a)* in receipt of and *(b)* not in receipt of free school meals went on to further education in each local authority area in each year since 2001. [53725]

Mr Gibb: The tables providing estimates of the number and percentage of young people who went on to further education at academic age 16[1], by local authority and free school meals (FSM) status in year 11, for each year between 2002/03 and 2009/10 have been placed in the House Libraries. The figures are based on young people in state-funded schools at age 15 for whom FSM status was known. The allocation to local authority is also based on the school attended at age 15.

Two sets of tables are provided, based on slightly different definitions of further education. The first set of tables (1a and 1b) shows the number and proportion of young people who go on to full-time education at academic age 16. The second set (2a and 2b) shows participation based on a wider definition of further education that includes anyone studying for a qualification at academic age 16—which will additionally include those in part-time study and Apprenticeships.

The estimates are derived from the Department for Education's "Young People's Matched Administrative Dataset" (YPMAD), which links several sources covering student attainment and participation between 16 and 19. The YPMAD is not the source of the Department's official estimates of post-16 participation, but has been used in this instance because it has information on learners' FSM status from year 11. Data prior to 2002/03 is not available.

GCE A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of GCE A-level students were entered for GCE A-level *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* communication and culture, *(e)* dance, *(f)* design and technology, *(g)* drama/theatre studies, *(h)* electronics, *(i)* film studies, *(j)* home economics, *(k)* information and communication technology, *(l)* law, *(m)* media studies, *(n)* music technology, *(o)* sports studies, *(p)* travel and tourism and *(q)* environmental studies in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority area in the last year for which figures are available; [53098]

(2) how many and what proportion of GCE A-level students were entered for at least one GCE A-level in *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* communication and culture, *(e)* dance, *(f)* design and technology, *(g)* drama/theatre studies, *(h)* electronics, *(i)* film studies, *(j)* home economics, *(k)* information and communication technology, *(l)* law, *(m)* media studies, *(n)* music technology, *(o)* sports studies, *(p)* travel and tourism and *(q)* environmental studies in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority area in the last year for which figures are available; [53099]

(3) how many and what proportion of GCE A-level students were entered for at least two GCE A-levels in *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* communication and culture, *(e)* dance, *(f)* design and technology, *(g)* drama/theatre studies, *(h)* electronics, *(i)* film studies, *(j)* home economics, *(k)* information and communication technology, *(l)* law, *(m)* media studies, *(n)* music technology, *(o)* sports studies, *(p)* travel and tourism and *(q)* environmental studies in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority area in the last year for which figures are available; [53100]

(4) how many and what proportion of GCE A-level students were entered for at least three GCE A-levels from *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* communication and culture, *(e)* dance, *(f)* design and technology, *(g)* drama/theatre studies, *(h)* electronics, *(i)* film studies, *(j)* home economics, *(k)* information and communication technology, *(l)* law, *(m)* media studies, *(n)* music technology, *(o)* sports studies, *(p)* travel and tourism and *(q)* environmental studies in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority in the last year for which figures are available. [52961]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCSE

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many GCSEs undertaken by students in year 9 were included in school league table results for 2010. [52942]

Mr Gibb: All qualifications awarded to pupils by the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4) in 2009/10 are included in the 2010 School Performance Tables.

Of the qualifications included in the 2010 tables for pupils who had completed KS4 studies that year, the equivalent of 106,889.7 GCSEs were taken in the academic year 2007/08. 36,978.5 of these are accounted for by short, full and double GCSEs courses, the others were equivalent qualifications such as BTECs.

Some of these qualifications taken early may have subsequently been discounted later by higher grade or level achievements eg if a pupil re-sat a particular GCSE or obtained an AS level in the subject before the end of the Key Stage.

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[1] Academic age is defined as age at the start of the academic year. Academic age 16-year-olds are usually in their first post-compulsory year.

Music: Education

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in local authority funding on the provision of *(a)* music services, *(b)* music trusts and *(c)* other local music education providers. [53266]

Mr Gibb: On 7 February, in response to Darren Henley's review of music education, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced that the overall level of funding for music education in 2011-12 is £82.5 million matching the level of funding to local authorities for music in 2010-11. He also guaranteed that the application of a fairer funding formula would mean that no local authority will receive a cut in funding of more than 10% compared to the 2010-11 allocation and that this funding provided by the Department for Education could only be used to provide music education.

Beyond this funding, it is a matter for local authorities to determine their levels of funding for music education. It is also a matter for local authorities to determine whether, using the total amount available for music, to fund music services, music trusts, or other local music education providers.

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he has allocated to implementing the national plan for music education. [53268]

Mr Gibb: The Government will give details of music funding when we publish the national plan for music education later this year.

Pupils: Dyslexia

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to local education authorities on assessing dyslexia among pupils in schools. [54227]

Sarah Teather: Guidance to local authorities on assessing children with special educational needs, including those with dyslexia, is given in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001). Further information and guidance for schools on recognising and supporting children with dyslexia is also given in online and DVD resources provided as part of the Inclusion Development Programme.

Special Educational Needs

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the support provided by local authorities for children with special needs. [54989]

Sarah Teather: In 2010-11 local authorities planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) was £5,477,522,509.

This covers planned expenditure on special educational provision and specialist support for pupils with statements and provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN. It includes:

funding, identified as "notional SEN", of additional resources directly to nursery, primary and secondary schools to help them support children without SEN;

the costs of additional resources provision and units in mainstream schools;

provision of a range of maintained special schools;

fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad;

the costs of support for inclusion;

the provision of the educational psychology service and of SEN specialist support services.

It also includes a range of additional local authority functions that impact on children with SEN, including child protection, therapies and other health-related services, parent partnership, guidance and information and monitoring.

Students: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the awarding of a guaranteed bursary to students defined as vulnerable will affect their entitlement for Care to Learn funding. [53576]

Mr Gibb: The awarding of a guaranteed bursary of £1,200 to students from the most vulnerable groups will not affect their eligibility for support under the Care to Learn programme.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many armoured cars his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* leases for use in Afghanistan. [54612]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for international Development (DFID) in Afghanistan owns five armoured vehicles which are pooled with other HMG owned vehicles for use by British embassy staff in Kabul. DFID owns a further 13 armoured vehicles which are assigned to specific projects and programmes. None of DFID's armoured vehicles are leased for use in Afghanistan.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54631]

Mr Duncan: In answering this question, the Department has assumed that the term "civil claims" refers to claims issued in England and Wales, in the courts of civil jurisdiction (the High Court and the county courts). The figures provided do not therefore include employment-related claims pursued through the employment tribunals.

There have been no payments made by the Department for International Development for damages, claimant costs or defendant costs in respect of civil claims in any of the last three years.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54568]

Mr Duncan: The proportion of the total Department for International Development (DFID) budget spent on staff pension contributions in 2010-11 is estimated to be 0.21%. Future contributions will be dependent both on the level of contributions and the number of staff making them.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take as part of the G8 commitment to provide additional funding for maternal and child health up to 2015 to address the global shortage of skilled birth attendants and health workers. [54836]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government's 'Choices for Women' Framework for Results outlines how the UK will save the lives of at least 50,000 women during pregnancy and childbirth and 250,000 newborn babies by 2015. The framework has a focus on increasing access to skilled health workers and commits to supporting at least two million safe deliveries and ensuring long-lasting improvements in maternity services.

Department for International Development (DFID) country programmes are currently finalising their operational plans for the next four years which will contribute to the Framework for Results commitments. These plans are being released via the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Publications/?p=OP

and it is anticipated that this exercise will be completed by the end of May.

Developing Countries: New Businesses

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides to people in developing countries to help set up their own businesses. [54839]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development provides a range of support which helps people in developing countries set up their own businesses. We are working on reform of developing countries' investment climates to reduce the 'costs' of doing business and increase the provision of loans and technical business skills to entrepreneurs and prospective business people.

For example UK aid has provided loans to 300,000 women from low-income communities in Pakistan to set up small enterprises and build their assets and supports a programme in Rwanda which has helped to cut the time it takes to register a business from 16 to three days.

Developing Countries: Solar Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support the use of solar lamps in developing countries. [54373]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a range of programmes to stimulate investment in the renewable technologies that can be life-changers for the world's poorest people, including solar lamps. For example, in India we are promoting solar lighting in remote rural areas through the Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme. Under this pilot, tribal woman are trained to fabricate and maintain solar lighting for homes, schools and streets. A feasibility study has been prepared for scale-up in 400 non-electrified Indian villages. Additionally, we are also about to start a five-year partnership with the Energy and Resources Institute which is focused on scaling up access to energy in Indian rural areas, including solar lighting.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has provided information to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) on the effects on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals of the operations of businesses supported by the ECGD. [54370]

Mr O'Brien: All applicants for Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) support involving a low income or heavily indebted country are required to assess a project's contribution to the economic and social development of the recipient country. The Department for International Development (DFID) reviews this proposal and checks the validity of the assessment. This is in line with our commitment under the OECD, of which further details can be found at:

http://www.oecd.org/department/
0,3355,en_2649_34179_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

For a list of projects assessed by DFID since summer 2006, I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 318W, to the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan (Dr Whiteford).

Overseas Aid

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria he applies to decisions on the grant of aid to developing countries. [54658]

Mr Duncan: The recently undertaken bilateral aid review has refocused the aid programme in fewer countries so that we can target our support where it will make the biggest difference and where the need is greatest. As a result, we will focus on programmes where the British Government are well placed to make a significant impact.

World Bank: Coal Fired Power Stations

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on World Bank support for unabated coal-fired power stations. [54372]

Mr O'Brien: The UK strongly supports the World Bank's proposed shift away from lending for coal-fired power stations towards cleaner energy sources where there is a greater need for concessional lending.

We want to see the bank helping countries explore all reasonable alternative options to coal before concluding that it is the appropriate option. Where alternatives are not feasible we want to see efforts being made to ensure the cleanest possible technology is used.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anti-Semitism: Germany

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of levels of anti-Semitism in Germany since May 2010; what recent discussions he has had with his German counterpart about anti-Semitism in Germany; and if he will make a statement. [54848]

Mr Lidington: I have not received any reports of anti-Semitism in Germany since May 2010, nor have I had any recent discussions with my German counterpart on this issue.

The UK is committed to fighting discrimination and intolerance. Combating all forms of racism remains an important part of the Government's human rights policy. In December 2010 we published the Government's first progress update report on our work to take forward the recommendations of the 2006 all-party parliamentary inquiry into anti-Semitism.

Chile: Press

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Chile in respect of journalists at the La Nacion newspaper. [54995]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not made any representations to the Chilean Government on this matter.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on media plurality in Chile. [54996]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There is a degree of concentration of media ownership in Chile, and the two main press conglomerates (El Mercurio and La Tercera) manage more than 70% of the country's newspapers. Nonetheless Chile enjoys an independent press and functioning democratic political system which safeguards the rights to freedom of speech, of expression and of the press.

COE Commissioner for Human Rights: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what voluntary contributions the Government has made to the costs of the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* each of the previous five years. [51962]

Mr Lidington: The UK's voluntary contributions are given in the following table.

United Kingdom voluntary contributions (2005-10)

	Programme	*€*
2005	HR Commissioner Office	47,349.05
	European Youth Foundation	7,174.63
	Support to the programme "Ballons rouges"	28,814.29
	Programme Moneyval	43,050.00
	In-Service training programme for educational staff	1,894.16
	Seminar on counterfeit medicines 2005	14,630.58
	GRECO	105,000.00
	Total	247,912.71
2006	Anti-money laundering measures	43,551,00
	Bern Convention	14,503.26
	HR Commissioner Office	25,335.75
	In-Service training programme for educational staff	26,123.00
	European Youth Foundation	12,584.98
	Language policies	15,179.99
	Project "HEREIN"	29,907.50
	Total	167,185.48
2007	HR Commissioner activities	42,859.20
	Human Rights training of Lawyers	71,281.79
	In-Service training programme for educational staff	10,481.06
	Total	124,622.05
2008	Activities for promoting the effective observance and full enjoyment of Human Rights	62,532.48
	Modernisation of tools and methods of the supervision of execution of the ECHR judgments	21,807.00
	Total	84,339.48
2009	Enhance the Commissioner's capacity to respond rapidly to actual or potential crisis situations	20,277.68
	Promoting and monitoring biological diversity policies through the Bern Convention	27,384.21
	Total	47,661.89
2010	Fight against discrimination	43,195.00
	Promoting and monitoring biological diversity policies through the Bern Convention	11,325.03
	Total	54,520.03

Diplomatic Service

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for the future of his Department's global diplomatic network. [54216]

Mr Lidington: Our plans for the future of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) network are now being finalised. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, will make a statement to the House later this week. But there will be no strategic shrinkage in our global presence. The FCO network is an essential part of the UK's economic recovery and will continue to play a vital role in maintaining our influence in the world.

Germany: Nazism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on neo-Nazi activity in Germany; and if he will make a statement. [54842]

Mr Lidington: I have not received any recent reports on neo-Nazi activity in Germany.

Osama bin Laden

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the assistance provided to Osama bin Laden by Pakistan in the past five years. [54520]

Alistair Burt: Pakistan has made huge sacrifices—both military and civilian—in the fight against terrorism. Both Pakistan and the UK have benefitted from recent action against militants taken by Pakistan. As the Prime Minister has already made clear, "searching questions" will need to be asked about what sort of support system Bin Laden had in Pakistan, and we need those questions answered. We would call on Pakistan to use Osama Bin Laden's death as an opportunity to bring greater stability and peace to Pakistan; and for Pakistan to make even greater strides in the fight against militancy.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at what time he was notified of the US military operation against Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad; and whether his Department was involved in any aspects of the planning or execution of the operation. [54521]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was made aware of the US operation against Osama bin Laden soon after the Prime Minister was informed, early on the morning of Monday 2 May 2011. The UK works very closely with the US military and intelligence services but we had no involvement in the planning or execution of this operation.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to prevent any reprisal attack on UK interests overseas following the death of Osama bin Laden. [54523]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office constantly reviews the threat of international terrorism to British nationals and UK interests overseas, working closely with the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC), security and intelligence agencies and our network of overseas posts. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also contributes to the cross-Government effort to reduce the risk of terrorism. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that al-Qaeda and its affiliates will attempt acts of reprisal.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has therefore encouraged British nationals to regularly check our travel advice, to monitor the media carefully for local reactions, to be vigilant and exercise caution in public places, and to avoid demonstrations. He has also asked all our embassies and high commissions overseas to review their security and to make sure that vigilance is heightened.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Pakistan. [54522]

Alistair Burt: The Prime Minister's statement on 3 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 453-55 set out some of the Government's assessment of the situation in Pakistan.

Pakistan is one of this Government's most important foreign policy, defence and development priorities. A stable, prosperous and democratic Pakistan, at ease with its regional neighbours and equipped with the will and capacity to tackle violent extremism, is of direct and critical importance to the security of the UK and its interests.

Pakistan is currently dealing with major domestic challenges, including how to: tackle a large militant insurgency in its border regions; achieve democratic and economic reform; and recover from the aftermath of last year's devastating floods. In addition, the Government of Pakistan are now grappling with the aftermath of the death of Osama Bin Laden. We will work with Pakistan's coalition Government in facing these challenges.

Pakistan's relationship with Afghanistan is pivotal to UK interests there. We are working with Pakistan to achieve our shared goals of lasting stability and security in Afghanistan. As the Prime Minister said in his statement on 3 May 2011:

> "The death of Bin Laden provides a new opportunity for Afghanistan and Pakistan to work together to achieve stability on both sides of the border".

Pakistan's relationship with India is also crucial for stability in the region. We welcome recent contact and discussions between India and Pakistan, including during the cricket World Cup semi-finals in Mohali. The pace, scope and substance of dialogue is for the two countries to decide.

Pakistan is a partner in tackling militancy, terrorism and extremism. We pay tribute to the sacrifices of ordinary Pakistanis and the members of the Pakistani armed forces, and the courage they have shown in tackling violent extremism. This is a shared fight, in which Pakistan is on the front line. We offer Pakistan our full support.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he made to the Vatican City State authorities in respect of the EU travel ban on President Mugabe and other representatives of the Zimbabwe regime; and if he will make a statement. [54537]

Mr Bellingham: The Holy See is not a member of the EU. It conducts its own foreign policy and has a bilateral relationship with Zimbabwe. The UK did not make representations to the Holy See over President Mugabe's travel on this occasion.

Italy is bound by the Lateran treaty not to inhibit the passage of official visitors to the Vatican. The visa issued by Italy to President Mugabe was time-limited for the event in question and valid only for Italian territory. Our ambassador in Harare did however discuss this issue with his Italian colleague and other counterparts to ensure consistency with the EU Common Position.

HEALTH

Allied Health Professions

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the involvement of representatives of the allied health professions in *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* service provision of public health at local level following the transfer of public health responsibility to local government; and if he will make a statement; [54477]

(2) what account he plans to take of the role of allied health professionals in public health in preparing advice and guidance to local government on their new responsibility for public health; and if he will make a statement. [54478]

Anne Milton: Our plans are for Directors of Public Health to have responsibility for leadership on public health at a local level and, through partnership working and collaboration with key partners, for example allied health professionals, local authorities will be able take innovative approaches to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of their local communities.

A wide range of professions, including allied health professionals, play a very important role in public health. The Department will ensure that any advice and guidance to local authorities on these new responsibilities reflects the multidisciplinary nature of public health.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he has taken of the role of allied health professionals in public health in preparing for the transfer of public health responsibilities to local government; and if he will make a statement. [54479]

Anne Milton: We have enjoyed good involvement with representatives from key allied health professional bodies. Departmental officials working on public health commissioning, funding and outcomes policies met with colleagues from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, and the British Dietetic Association who together represented the Allied Health Professionals Federation. Following this meeting, responses were submitted by a number of allied health professional representative bodies to the consultation on the public health White Paper and associated documents. This consultation closed on 31 March and we will take the views expressed by these and all other stakeholders into consideration. Government's response to the consultation will be published in the summer of this year. The Government are committed to developing a public health work force strategy for consultation in autumn 2011 and have established a working group to advise and support this process. The Chair of the National Allied Health Professional Advisory Board is a member of the Public Health Workforce Strategy Group.

Following the end of the White Paper consultation period, the Department continues to involve the full range of health professionals, representatives of voluntary sector and the public in developing new public health arrangements. The Department regularly publishes updates on its proposals and plans on the Department's website and writes directly to national health service organisations, local government and others.

Aspartame

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to commission research to investigate a potential relationship between levels of aspartame consumption and adverse health reactions in children. [54801]

Anne Milton: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that aspartame has been extensively tested and reviewed for safety by independent experts at national, European and international level and found to be safe at current levels of use. Despite this, some people consider they react badly to consuming the sweetener. The FSA has therefore commissioned a pilot study focusing on people who have self-reported bad reactions to the sweetener in order to understand why this is the case. Participants in the study will be at least 18 but the results should be applicable to people of any age.

Blood: CJD

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have contracted variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a result of receiving *(a)* contaminated blood via blood transfusion and *(b)* non-leucodepleted contaminated blood via blood transfusion. [54618]

Anne Milton: There have been three cases of clinical variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) presumed to be associated with blood transfusion. These have occurred in people who have received blood transfusions from donors who themselves went on to develop clinical vCJD after they had made the blood donation. None of these patients were transfused after 1999, and all received non-leucodepleted blood.

Blood: Contamination

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* others in his Department on the implications of Lord Archer's report on contaminated blood and blood products in respect of compensation for future recipients of contaminated blood. [54619]

Anne Milton: The Archer Inquiry restricted itself to investigating the events in the 1970s and 1980s that led to the infection of haemophilia patients and others with HIV and/or hepatitis C by national health service supplied contaminated blood or blood products, and made recommendations regarding financial support only to those infected at that time.

We have discussed the implications of Lord Archer's report in the light of provisions that should be made for people who contracted HIV and/or hepatitis C from contaminated blood.

CJD

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in England in each of the last five years. [54620]

Anne Milton: The National Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Research and Surveillance Unit (NCJDRSU) has provided the following information about deaths from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). This information is available on NCJDRSU website at:

www.cjd.ed.ac.uk

United Kingdom definite and probable vCJD deaths 2005 to 2010

	Number of Deaths
2005	5
2006	5
2007	5
2008	1
2009	3
2010	3

Doctors: Working Hours

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with the NHS European Office social partner on the effects of the European Working Time Directive on *(a)* hospital doctors and *(b)* acute medical staff; [54376]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the future implementation of the European Working Time Directive for *(a)* hospital doctors and *(b)* acute medical staff; [54452]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* patient care and *(b)* staff performance, welfare and training of the implementation of the European Working Time Directive for hospital doctors and acute medical staff; and if he will make a statement. [54455]

Mr Simon Burns: I and departmental officials work very closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on the application of the Working Time Directive to the United Kingdom Healthcare sector, meeting as appropriate. This directive is once again being considered by the European Commission and both Departments agree that we should pursue discussions in Europe with the intention of maintaining the individual's right to opt-out of the 48 hour working week while seeking greater flexibility particularly in the areas of on-call time and compensatory rest. This strategy is in-keeping with the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to work to limit the application of the Working Time Directive.

The Department engaged with the national health service European Office as they formulated their response to the European Commission's second stage Social Partner consultation on Working Time and, also, when the NHS European Office provided their contribution to wider social partner responses (such as those of the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of Enterprises of General Economic Interest and the European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association).

The NHS European Office are members of the Working Time Directive stakeholder group co-chaired by the Department and BIS. This group has convened to review the proposals put forward by the European Commission as part of its second stage consultation on Working Time.

Ensuring service rotas are compliant and assessing the effects implementation of the directive is having on patients and staff is the responsibility of individual NHS trusts.

In response to concerns about the directive, Medical Education England (MEE) commissioned an independent review chaired by Professor Sir John Temple. The review's findings concluded that high quality training can be delivered in 48 hours but traditional models of training and service delivery waste training opportunities and will need to change. Additionally, it demonstrates that far more can be done to improve medical training by changing working practices and taking advantage of the increase in consultants working in the NHS.

The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has asked MEE to take the lead in implementing changes to improve training practices in line with the aspirations in Sir John Temple's report 'Time for Training' (2010). In response, MEE is taking forward a detailed implementation plan, 'Better Training, Better Care'.

Health Professions: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many places at each university in England NHS London commissioned for nursing and allied health professional education in *(a)* pre-registration education, *(b)* post-registration education and *(c)* continuing professional education in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; how many such places he expects there to be in (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13 and (C) 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [54978]

Anne Milton: Information on nursing, midwifery and allied health professional places at universities is not collected by the Department. It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities to individually manage contracts with higher education institutions based on local workforce planning and education commissioning decisions. The hon. Member may wish to contact NHS London for the information requested.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to improve the early detection and treatment of atrial fibrillation. [54802]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for local national health service commissioners to determine the needs of their populations and ensure that appropriate services are available.

NHS Improvement is working with the NHS in undertaking a programme of work to improve the detection and management of atrial fibrillation. This includes:

raising awareness of the condition by working closely with The Stroke Association who are planning a campaign on the subject this year;

promoting the use of the Guidance on Risk Assessment and Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation (GRASP-AF) tool, which is designed to aid the identification of patients already known to have atrial fibrillation who are at increased risk of stroke and not on warfarin;

commissioning improvements to the GRASP-AF tool to include the latest clinical risk algorithms and the latest management options; and

working with the National Patient Safety Agency to create an anti-coagulation guide.

The Department has also responded to the recent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence consultation on the quality outcomes framework with suggestions to revise the indicators promoting the evidence-based management of the stroke risk in atrial fibrillation.

Liphophilic Biotoxins

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether animals have been used for detection of liphophilic biotoxins in the UK since 10 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [54611]

Anne Milton: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), which has responsibility for the monitoring of marine biotoxins in shellfish, that animals have been used for the detection of lipophilic biotoxins in the United Kingdom since 10 January 2011.

This testing is required by European Union legislation to protect consumers from the risk of diarrhetic shellfish poisoning. However, recent changes to the legislation require member states to use an alternative chemical method by 31 December 2014. The FSA has advised that a chemical method has been validated and will be implemented as soon as technical issues associated with the practical application of the method have been resolved. They expect to implement the new method by autumn this year.

Lyme Disease

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to raise public awareness of the risks associated with Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections. [54790]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) issues an annual press release to raise public awareness of ticks, tick bites and Lyme disease. The press release, issued this year on 14 April, is aimed at those living in or visiting areas where ticks are present, and gives advice on prevention of tick bites and what to do if you are bitten. This complements advice for the public and clinicians published on the HPA's website.

The HPA has also produced a leaflet in conjunction with The Royal Parks and New Forest District Council on ticks and Lyme disease. The leaflet gives information on identifying ticks, tick removal, Lyme disease symptoms and prevention of tick bites. It is available at:

www.royalparks.org.uk/docs/richmondpark/
Tick%20Leaflet%20%20final%20April%202010.PDF

Malaria

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases of malaria there have been in the UK in the last 12 months; what assessment he has made of rates of takeup of preventive medication for malaria; and if he will make a statement. [54904]

Anne Milton: In 2010, 1,761 imported cases of malaria were reported. None were acquired in the United Kingdom. Malaria figures are published annually.

4,148,701 prescriptions for malaria medication were dispensed in England in 2010. Medication used for treatment and prevention cannot be separated, as many drugs are used for both purposes. No assessment of rates of take up of preventive medication for malaria has been undertaken as it is not possible to establish this.

Medical Equipment: Hygiene

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the sterility of *(a)* medical and *(b)* in vitro diagnostic devices for the containment or culture of specimens. [54646]

Anne Milton: The choice of devices for collecting or culturing specimens is made locally. Sterility is not required for the containment or culture of all specimens.

Multiple Sclerosis: Nurses

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to maintain the level of specialist nurse services for multiple sclerosis. [54800]

Paul Burstow: Specialist nurses provide an important source of support and advice to patients with multiple sclerosis and enable many patients to manage their condition effectively. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to make decisions on the funding of multiple sclerosis nurse posts.

Muscular Dystrophy

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the NHS East of England Specialised Commissioning Group in recruiting and appointing three neuromuscular care advisors for the region; and if he will make a statement. [54780]

Paul Burstow: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 704W.

Further to that answer, we are advised that the posts will be advertised with a view to suitable candidates commencing the roles by the end of summer 2011.

NHS: Sustainable Development

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the NHS sustainable development unit in the last year for which figures are available. [54433]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Sustainable Development Unit is hosted by the East of England Strategic Health Authority. Departmental officials have been advised by the strategic health authority that the annual expenditure of the NHS Sustainable Development Unit for the financial year 2010-11 was £505,706. This is the most recent financial year for which figures are available.

Organs: Donors

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage people to join the Organ Donor Register. [54617]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) undertakes a variety of activities, working with a number of partners in the private, public and third sectors to encourage more people to join the organ donor register (ODR). this includes national initiatives such as joining the ODR when registering with a doctor.

Earlier this year NHSBT ran a campaign targeted specifically at black and minority ethnic (BME) communities highlighting the importance of people from black and Asian communities joining the ODR and discussing their donation wishes with family members. The campaign included a tour of shopping centres in areas with a high concentration of black and Asian communities, visits to Hindu, Sikh and Muslim faith organisations and places of worship, advertising on black and Asian television channels, radio stations and newspapers, a social media campaign and a poster display in community shops and outlets.

NHSBT is also working in partnership with the Department for Transport and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency prompting people to make a choice about joining the ODR when applying for their driving licence on-line. If successful the approach may be rolled out to other areas.

During National Transplant Week, an annual event to be held 4-10 July 2011, NHSBT will work with partner organisations to plan activity under the theme of "what are you waiting for?". The campaign will highlight how quick and easy it is to join the ODR. In the Department of Health in June 2011, donation events in London and Leeds will answer questions about donation and encourage Department of Health staff to join the Organ Donor Register.

St Helens and Knowsley Health Authority

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations the North West Strategic Health Authority has received from St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust on *(a)* the financial conditions the Trust has been required to meet in order to become a foundation trust and *(b)* the potential effect of such conditions on patient services. [55022]

Mr Simon Burns: Monitor (the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts) wrote to national health service trusts, foundation trusts (FTs) and strategic health authorities to set out its revised financial assumptions on 27 April 2011. All NHS trusts applying for FT status will, as part of their application, be required to demonstrate how they will meet these financial requirements while at the same time ensuring the quality of its services meets national standards.

Work on the Tripartite Formal Agreement between St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust, North West strategic health authority and the Department has not yet been completed. When it has been finalised and the agreement has been signed by all parties, the trust will publish the agreement on their website. The agreement will identify the issues the trust faces and the actions that will establish them as sustainable providers of high quality health care services. These developments will enable them to meet the demanding requirements needed to achieve FT status. Any proposals for service changes will be subject to the normal process of consultation.

Strokes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts (PCTs) are reviewing their support for Life After Stroke Services; which PCTs have reduced their support for such services for 2011-12; and what the size of any reduction is in each such case. [54987]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he provides to local authorities to ensure their employees receive training in dealing with those who have communication difficulties following a stroke; and if he will make a statement. [54988]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of individual social care employers (including local authorities) to ensure that their staff are appropriately trained for the work that they do. This may involve partnership working with the national health service. The Department encourages employers to upskill their existing staff to improve standards within social care.

Skills for Care, the Sector Skills Council, provides training materials in communications skills for all social care staff. These are included within the Common Induction Standards. Social Care Institute for Excellence has also produced a module on verbal communications on Social Care TV—a Department funded e-learning resource for social care staff.

Tobacco

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to require that organisations which engage with his Department on tobacco control issues disclose whether they are linked to or receive funding from *(a)* the pharmaceutical industry and *(b)* the public purse. [54656]

Anne Milton: The Government are under obligation to protect tobacco control from the vested interests of the tobacco industry, under The World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Our policy on this is set out in Chapter 10 of "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England". This does not extend beyond the tobacco industry and the Department, as with all other policy areas, engages with a wide range of stakeholders including the pharmaceutical industry, organisations in receipt of funding from the pharmaceutical industry and organisations in receipt of funding from the public purse.

A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of households *(a)* with parents who are reliant on formal child care in order to work but whose child care costs will be higher than the amount allocated for child care within universal credit, *(b)* with parents with children who will be subject to the overall benefit cap and *(c)* with parents with children who will be affected by both (i) high cost child care and (ii) the benefit cap. [53715]

Maria Miller: The Government have announced that support for child care costs will be provided in universal credit by an additional element, and we are considering what rates to set. We will match the same total amount of funding as in the current system, and are looking at how best this support can be allocated. In particular, we would like child care to support all working parents, so that those working under 16 hours can benefit. We are looking at different options and will be discussing them with stakeholders.

We estimate that approximately 50,000 households are likely to be impacted by the introduction of the benefit cap of which about 95% will include children.

The estimated number of households affected by the benefit cap is based on survey data using the Department for Work and Pension's Policy Simulation Model. Sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results from analysis of child care costs incurred by those households affected by the benefit cap.

Child Support Agency

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many consolatory payments in respect of errors and maladministration were made to clients by the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years; what the total amount paid out in consolatory payments was in each such year; and what the average sum offered to clients as consolatory payments was in each such year. [53826]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many consolatory payments in respect of errors and maladministration were made to clients by the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years; what the total amount paid out in consolatory payments was in each such year; and what the average sum offered to clients as consolatory payments was in each such year. [53826]

Consolatory payments are compensatory amounts paid to parents on an ex-gratia basis where delays or administrative errors have resulted in lower than expected service standards. Compensation payments for lost interest are also classed as a consolatory payment.

The following table details the volume and value of Consolatory Payments (including interest payments) made in each of the last five years; including the average sum paid in each year. This information is published in the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's Annual Report and Accounts.

Financial year	*Consolatory payments—Value (£ million)*	*Consolatory payments—Volume*	*Average payment (£)*
2006-07	3.709	15,420	241
2007-08	4.729	14,456	327
2008-09	4.341	14,878	292
2009-10	3.006	12,070	249
2010-11[1]	1.787	7,879	227

[1] The 2010/11 figures are unaudited and therefore may be subject to change.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child: Maintenance

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many responses his Department received to its consultation Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility; and how many of these were from *(a)* parents, *(b)* third sector organisations and *(c)* others. [53822]

Maria Miller: We have received a total of 652 direct responses to the consultation exercise. Of these:

578 responses were from individual members of the public;

66 responses were from organisations, including third sector organisations;

six responses were from honourable Members; and

two responses were from noble Lords.

In addition we have received a further 368 letters from hon. Members.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Government Response to the Work and Pensions Committee's Third Report, Session 2009-10, on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and the Child Support Agency's Operational Improvement Plan, if he will provide details of the range of people recruited from the private and voluntary sectors to assist the Commission to ensure that the future scheme learns from the lessons of the past. [53823]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

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One of the initial objectives when setting up the Commission was to recruit new talent, skills and thinking from other sectors primarily for head office functions including strategic planning and the design of the new child maintenance system.

The job designs and reward packages for the roles on offer were developed to attract expertise from the private and voluntary sectors—salaries offered in line with market rates, relevant to the specific role rather, than a grade and inclusive of all benefits. The approach has been very successful in attracting the right people with the skills needed. The total number of external recruits since November 2008, including temporary posts is 297 who have come from backgrounds including banking, insurance, management consultancy and the infrastructure sector as well as the voluntary sector.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53812]

Chris Grayling: DWP does not own any buildings. The DWP estate was sold (freehold, feuhold and long leasehold interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) to Telereal Trillium under a PFI contract known as "PRIME".

The proceeds from the sale of Department of Social Security buildings were released to HM Treasury in April 1998, and a further transfer occurred in December 2003 when PRIME was expanded to include the Employment Service estate after the formation of the DWP.

However for the hon. Member's information I have attached a list of current DWP locations with post codes. This information will shortly be published on Data.gov.uk via the Cabinet Office.

Disability Living Allowance

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Scotland have been in receipt of disability living allowance since 1992; how many of these have had their award reviewed under *(a)* the Benefits Integrity Project, *(b)* periodic reviews and *(c)* the Right Payment Programme since 1997; and how many of those reviewed had their award adjusted. [53617]

Maria Miller: We are unable to tell you how many people in Scotland have been in receipt of DLA since 1992; records only go back to 1996. The information that is available is in the following table:

Region—Scotland

As at August each year	*Cases in payment*
1996	203,000
1997	222,900
1998	232,700
1999	239,100
2000	247,600
2001	260,800
2002	271,100
2003	284,300
2004	295,000
2005	303,700
2006	310,200
2007	318,800
2008	327,400
2009	337,200
2010	343,800

Note:
Totals have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 and show the number of people in receipt of DLA, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
Source:
August 1996 to August 2001: Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample, (the proportions derived have been applied to the overall 100% total for DLA); August 2002 to August 2010: Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

We are also unable to tell you how many people in Scotland have since 1997 had their award reviewed under *(a)* the Benefit Integrity Project, *(b)* periodic reviews and *(c)* the Right Payment Programme. Nor can we tell you how many of those reviewed had their award adjusted. This is because Management Information statistics have not been set up to go down to the level of detail that would enable us to identify customers living in Scotland.

Disability Living Allowance: Autism

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people with autism who are in receipt of the middle rate of disability living allowance. [54066]

Maria Miller: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available relating to learning difficulties is in the following table.

Number of people in receipt of the middle care rate of disability living allowance where the main disabling condition is learning difficulties—August 2010

	All	Middle Care Rate
All	3,176,200	1,059,800
Learning difficulties	367,400	181,000

Notes:
1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Case load totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Prior to October 2008 the codes used to record disabling condition for DLA included a category called "Learning Disability" which includes the following disabling conditions: 'F86'—'Down's Syndrome', 'F87'—'Fragile X syndrome', 'F90'—'Other Learning Disability', 'F91'—'Autism', 'F92'—'Asperger Syndrome', 'F94'—'Retts Disorder.'
5. In October 2008, new codes were introduced which provided more detail with respect to disabling conditions. The "Learning Difficulty" group was separated out into six categories, one of which is "Autism".
6. Codes for existing DLA claimants were not updated, so therefore the number of cases with new codes is extremely small compared to the total numbers in receipt of DLA. Therefore it is not yet possible to produce a reliable estimate of the total number of people claiming DLA with a main disabling condition of "Autism".

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Disability Living Allowance: Parkinson's Disease

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of disability living allowance in the North East who are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease; and what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on claimants diagnosed with Parkinson's disease of proposed changes to disability living allowance. [54287]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Number of people in receipt of disability living allowance in the North East where the main disabling condition is Parkinson's disease—August 2010

	All
All	178,200
Parkinson's disease	900

Notes:

1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Case load totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

From 2013 we will introduce a new benefit, personal independence payment, to replace disability living allowance for people of working age. Key to personal independence payment will be a more objective assessment of individual need. We have been developing our proposals for the new assessment in collaboration with a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability.

The assessment will take account of needs arising from physical, sensory, mental, intellectual and cognitive impairments. We believe it is right for the assessment to look at disabled people as individuals and not simply label them by their health condition or impairment. Therefore the assessment is being designed to consider an individual's personal circumstances and the support they need, rather than basing eligibility on any medical condition. Before finalising the assessment criteria we will be testing them and assessing their impact.

Housing Benefit

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency claimed housing benefit in each of the last 10 years. [47736]

Steve Webb: The information requested for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency is not available.

A copy of the available information on HB recipients has been placed in the Library.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received *(a)* housing benefit but not council tax benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit but not housing benefit and *(c)* housing benefit and council tax benefit in each region in each year since 2007. [53403]

Steve Webb: The following tables contain tabulations of housing benefit and council tax benefit data by Government Office Region and benefit combination (i.e. the number of claimants in receipt of either housing benefit, council tax benefit or both) since 2008. Earlier data held by the Department for Work and Pensions are based on clerical returns from local authorities and do not contain this level of detail.

November 2008

	HB only	*CTB only*	*HB and CTB*
All	456,920	1,434,370	3,715,020
North East	13,930	78,060	218,520
North West	46,930	204,060	485,580
Yorkshire and Humberside	33,270	136,370	327,930
East Midlands	23,050	111,740	237,690
West Midlands	34,860	163,590	350,900
East of England	34,530	120,920	284,390
London	100,890	118,940	610,250
South East	61,880	142,860	377,560
South West	41,730	119,610	258,130
Wales	20,150	98,770	190,680
Scotland	45,700	139,450	373,420

January 2009

	HB only	*CTB only*	*HB and CTB*
All	466,130	1,464,690	3,786,120
North East	14,210	80,160	222,550
North West	48,890	207,880	488,610
Yorkshire and Humberside	33,010	140,280	338,420
East Midlands	23,620	114,090	241,880
West Midlands	36,170	167,420	357,790
East of England	35,370	123,070	289,110
London	103,860	121,350	615,200
South East	62,600	146,690	388,070
South West	42,500	123,630	268,110
Wales	20,980	100,420	192,960
Scotland	44,940	139,710	383,430

January 2010

	HB only	*CTB only*	*HB and CTB*
All	519,990	1,545,710	4,131,120
North East	15,720	85,110	236,240
North West	53,260	219,050	535,040
Yorkshire and Humberside	37,640	151,240	364,420
East Midlands	27,550	121,520	269,460
West Midlands	41,320	177,250	390,080
East of England	41,050	130,990	320,320
London	118,450	128,540	662,500
South East	70,150	156,970	430,900
South West	48,340	129,510	296,270
Wales	21,320	105,250	210,660
Scotland	45,190	140,310	415,220

January 2011

	HB only	*CTB only*	*HB and CTB*
All	535,860	1,528,330	4,297,610
North East	16,110	83,530	244,090
North West	55,780	218,500	556,230
Yorkshire and Humberside	36,990	147,800	385,350
East Midlands	28,000	120,410	280,520
West Midlands	42,380	175,570	402,820
East of England	41,530	130,530	333,590
London	124,560	125,630	691,640
South East	72,240	155,550	448,540
South West	48,370	129,140	311,910
Wales	22,030	104,390	219,000
Scotland	47,870	137,290	423,920

Notes:

1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and January 2011 is the most recent available.
6. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
7. Figures are at the second Thursday in each month provided.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what equality impact assessment he undertook on the effect of the provisions of the Housing Benefit Regulations 2010 on people aged between 25 and 34 years. [53970]

Steve Webb: An equality impact assessment has been carried out and will be published in May.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Employment to the Public Bill Committee on the Welfare Reform Bill of 31 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 335, how many of the 3,500 families receiving more than £25,000 a year in housing benefit are employed; and how many such tenancies are occupied by *(a)* a couple with (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five and (vi) more than five children under 18 and *(b)* a lone parent with (A) one, (B) two, (C) three, (D) four, (E) five and (F) more than five children under 18. [55021]

Steve Webb: Of the 3,510 housing benefit claimants under local housing allowance rules with a weekly award exceeding £481 per week (£25,000 if expressed as an annual value), approximately 1,020 were in work, 1,380 were couples with children and 1,920 were lone parents with children. Data on the number of children are not available.

The figure for recipients in work includes all non-passported claims where either the claimant or their partner has declared any income from employment or self employment. This excludes people who may be doing some permitted work while in receipt of a passporting benefit (income-based jobseeker's allowance, income support, income related employment support allowance or guarantee credit).

Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from his Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding his Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49254]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

Social Fund

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level was of recovery of crisis loans in *(a)* cash and *(b)* percentage terms in each year from 2003 to 2010. [54150]

Steve Webb *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* The information available is given in the following tables. Information for 2010-11 will not be available until after the Secretary of State's Annual Report on the Social Fund for 2010-11 has been published later this year.

Level of recovery of crisis loans in cash terms in each year from 2003-04 to 2009-10 in Great Britain

Financial year	*Crisis loan recovery (£ million)*
2003-04	66.7
2004-05	67.9
2005-06	70.1
2006-07	69.1
2007-08	66.5
2008-09	83.1
2009-10	119.4

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. Information for 2003-04 to 2009-10 is also published in the Secretary of State's Annual Report on the Social Fund.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

The information in the following table shows the percentage of expenditure in each year recovered in each of the subsequent years. For example, in 2003-04 22.6% of the expenditure in that year was subsequently recovered within the same year.

Percentage

	Year of recovery						
Year of expenditure	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
2003-04	22.6	33.9	15.7	6.4	3.4	7.8	—
2004-05	—	21.1	33.6	15.3	6.0	4.0	11.6
2005-06	—	—	20.4	32.7	14.3	6.6	5.3

Percentage

Year of expenditure	*Year of recovery* 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
2006-07	—	—	—	16.1	25.9	18.1	9.9
2007-08	—	—	—	—	13.4	24.2	19.8
2008-09	—	—	—	—	—	12.2	24.5
2009-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.4

Notes:
1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. From April 2006 policy changes were made to the Loans scheme which included changes to recoveries. The changes made were to reduce the highest of the loan repayment rates of 15% and 25% to 12% and 20% respectively and increase the period of time in which a loan can be repaid.
3. Not all expenditure is recovered within five years and while recovery is still made after five years, it is not possible to break this down further.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on proposals to localise the Social Fund. [54290]

Steve Webb: The social fund is not being localised. The Welfare Reform Bill includes proposals to abolish the discretionary social fund. It will be replaced with a combination of locally designed and targeted assistance for the most vulnerable in the community and a modernised and simplified national system of payments on account accessed through the benefit system.

Lord Freud, Minister for Welfare Reform, has recently spoken to Leighton Andrews, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning in the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss our welfare reform proposals, including the new local assistance.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the planned abolition of the post of Social Fund Commissioner. [54291]

Steve Webb: I have discussed the abolition of the post of the social fund commissioner with the commissioner himself.

A number of organisations have raised the issue of disputes handling for the new local assistance that will replace community care grants and crisis loans for general living expenses.

The commissioner's statutory role is to appoint and train inspectors to provide a second tier independent review of discretionary social fund decisions. The proposed abolition of the post of the social fund commissioner will be a direct consequence of the abolition of the discretionary social fund.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the Exchequer of implementing the proposed total household benefit cap in each financial year from its implementation to 2015-16. [55024]

Steve Webb: The coalition Government announced on the spending review 2010 that household benefit payments would be capped from 2013 at around £500 per week for couple and lone parent households and around £350 per week for single adult households. War widows and widowers, households which include a member who is receiving disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance, and working households claiming the working tax credit will be exempt from the cap.

If the benefit cap were applied in full, as described in the supporting documentation for the spending review, the savings to the Exchequer are estimated to be £225 million in 2013-4, £270 million in 2014-5 and £270 million in 2015-16.

Social Security Benefits: Strokes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is provided for staff dealing with benefits and employment to ensure that they understand the needs of people who have suffered a stroke. [54990]

Chris Grayling: The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) policy is to develop its staff in the skills required to support a range of customers and to respect their individual needs. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances while treating customers as individuals.

The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus focuses on raising awareness of the customer's personal circumstances and also recognises that disabilities and health conditions can affect individuals in different ways and will change over time.

All Jobcentre Plus staff receive foundation learning which covers excellent customer service, diversity and customer needs. These deal with the wide range of circumstances that our customers may have, some less obvious than others, and stress how important it is to look for signs where the customer does not give us this information directly and to offer appropriate support.

In particular for Advisers the learning has placed a greater emphasis on the need for personalisation and flexibility to enable advisers to build strong relationships with customers. It includes Adviser Skills learning with a core series of Adviser Skills workshops, periods of supported workplace consolidation and knowledge and procedural learning.

The key messages throughout this learning focuses on providing a personalised, flexible service to the customer and treating them as individuals. The learning provides an understanding of why this approach is important; what it means to the customer; what it looks like and how it works in practice. It further supports the adviser to identify the range of customers and the level of individual support they would need to provide and identify where more specialist help may be appropriate.

This specialist help can come from our Disability Employment Advisers who have extensive and specialist learning in addition to the detail provided above.

In addition an extensive learning programme has been developed to support the implementation of IB Reassessment. Training is being provided for Jobcentre Plus staff across Contact Centres, Benefit Centres and Jobcentres. In recognition of the varied needs of the IB reassessment customer group and the impact that the change will have on customers, the learning includes behavioural/cultural topics as well as the technical aspects required for the processing of benefits.

PDCS deals with pension age customers and customers with disabilities, and includes the Local Service visiting function, a function which has recently been extended to include visits to vulnerable customers on behalf of Jobcentre Plus.

In common with Jobcentre Plus, all PDCS staff are given foundation training in customer service, diversity and communications according to learning requirements as part of their induction. Ongoing training and development is provided throughout their career, as part of their ongoing performance and development, or on change of job.

PDCS staff have access to training in Excellent Customer Service and training on understanding the needs of customers who have disabilities. There is also a training package on communication barriers and the assistance that can be arranged to resolve communication problems.

Local Service visiting staff are given awareness training on the needs of older people, include training in health and vulnerability, which covers strokes in particular. The learning package highlights empathy, diversity/equality and managing emotional responses. It also covers support services available to customers, while emphasising the need for an empowering approach to combat the negative spiral which can increase dependency. This learning package is currently being broadened to cover the needs of all age groups.

To support future plans for business restructuring within the Local Service function, a learning intervention is currently being developed for telephony staff, which will cover understanding customers' needs, vulnerability and communication issues.

State Retirement Pensions

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his policy is on honouring *(a)* existing and *(b)* future earnings-related pension entitlements under his proposed pension reforms; [54997]

(2) what assessment he has made of the categories of individual likely to be *(a)* better and *(b)* worse off as a result of the introduction of a single tier pension; [54998]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to lose entitlement to savings credit under the Government's proposals for pension reform; [54999]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to be affected by reform of inherited rights under the Government's proposals for pension reform. [55000]

Steve Webb: The Government's consultation paper A state pension for the 21st century sets out two broad options for reform to simplify the state pension and better support saving.

The Government have made it clear that they would honour contributions to the current system during transition to any new system and envisages that the savings credit would be retained under option one (faster flat rating) but would end under option two (single tier).

The Government are currently seeking views on both options for reform as part of the consultation process and, as policy development is still underway, it is not possible to provide further detail at this stage. The Government will provide further detail and a full assessment of the impacts of any changes when it publishes more detailed proposals for reform.

Welfare to Work

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were enrolled in welfare-to-work schemes *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each programme at the start of (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each of the previous five financial years. [45148]

Chris Grayling: Following tables contain information on provision starts for the main welfare-to-work schemes for the last six financial years. It should be noted that information on every welfare-to-work scheme is not collected centrally and doing so would incur disproportionate costs. Therefore the following data only covers the key welfare-to-work schemes.

Welfare-to-work schemes have been split into three categories; Intensive support; Less intensive support; and Jobcentre Plus led.

Intensive Support

New Deal programmes (spells in thousand)

	New Deal for young people	*New Deal for 25 plus*
2005-06	168.53	82.01
2006-07	186.50	104.80
2007-08	166.22	124.98
2008-09	195.40	102.69
2009-10	191.79	79.90
April 2010 to November 2010	33.13	39.81

Flexible New Deal

Financial year	*Starts*
2008-09	n/a
2009-10	149,820
April 2010 to January 2011	205,750
Total	355,570

Employment zones (spells in thousand)

	18 to 24-year-olds	*Lone parents*	*Aged 25 plus*
2005-06	8.16	9.08	18.99
2006-07	9.21	15.51	21.20
2007-08	9.30	16.81	22.12
2008-09	10.06	18.19	19.84

Employment zones (spells in thousand)

	18 to 24-year-olds	Lone parents	Aged 25 plus
2009-10	6.63	10.77	13.74
April 2010 to October 2010	2.37	5.12	7.15

Welfare to Work schemes—less intensive support

New Deal programmes (spells in thousand)

	New Deal for disabled people
2005-06	70.58
2006-07	63.41
2007-08	56.97
2008-09	36.94
2009-10	36.00
April 2010 to November 2010	22.45

Provide led pathways to work

Financial year	Starts
December 2007 to March 2008	50,300
2008-09	272,330
2009-10	192,450
April 2010 to July 2010	37,560
Total	552,640

Welfare to work schemes—Jobcentre Plus led

New Deal programmes (spells in thousand)

	New Deal for lone parents	New Deal for 50 plus	New Deal for partners
2005-06	155.30	24.17	2.29
~~2006-07~~	134.36	16.98	2.25
2007-08	184.70	11.73	2.03
2008-09	186.49	9.26	2.18
2009-10	143.03	6.25	2.25
April 2010 to November 2010	113.10	3.43	1.69

Jobcentre Plus Pathways

Financial year	Starts
2005-06	124,250
2006-07	307,100
2007-08	337,130
2008-09	302,990
2009-10	323,620
April 2010 to July 2010	101,220
Total	1,606,910

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Questions 50232 and 50236, on community care grants, tabled on 28 March 2011 for answer on 30 March 2011. [54876]

Steve Webb: I replied to the hon. Member's questions on 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1022W.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Members: Correspondence

Kate Green: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 August 2010 from a constituent of the hon. Member for Stretford and Urmston, Mr Charlie Donegan. [54387]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My office deals with my correspondence in the most efficient way possible to ensure a comprehensive reply. It was for this reason that Mr Donegan's correspondence was passed to the Department for Work and Pensions, as the relevant Department, for a full reply. A reply has now been sent to Mr Donegan.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54640]

Mr Maude: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Manufacturing Industries

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the level of growth in the manufacturing sector in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [54834]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority, I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question regarding the level of growth in manufacturing in the latest 12 months. [54834]

Figures from the Index of Production statistical bulletin published on the 6th April 2011 show that manufacturing output grew by 4.9% in February 2011 when compared to February 2010.

Members: Correspondence

Caroline Flint: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects the Cabinet Secretary to reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Don Valley of 3 March and 4 April 2011 on the Audit Commission. [54915]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Secretary replied to the right hon. Member today.

Public Bodies Reform Programme

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, on public bodies reform programme, if he will *(a)* prepare and *(b)* publish a schedule setting out the contribution of each public body to the reduction in spending through public bodies. [54524]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 9 May 2011]*: The following table sets out total reductions for the bodies sponsored by each Department that informed the estimates I announced on 16 March 2011. These are estimates as of 16 March, expressed as real-terms cumulative totals over the spending review period.

£ million

	Estimated cumulative admin reductions from public bodies over SR period	*Estimated cumulative programme spending reductions from public bodies over SR period*	*Estimated cumulative capital spending reductions from public bodies over SR period*	*Estimated total cumulative reductions over SR period*
BIS	882.00	10,030.93	2,466.77	13,379.69
CO	9.71	59.97	8.00	77.68
CLG	168.62	280.73	12,962.55	13,411.9
Local government	60.54	0	0	60.54
DCMS	206.35	1,287.70	382.22	1,876.27
DECC	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
DEFRA	269.51	446.27	509.87	1,225.66
DfE	673.88	[1]—	[1]—	673.88
DfID	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0.00
DH	67.00	[1]—	[1]—	67.00
FCO	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0.00
HMT	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0.00
MoJ (inc AGO)	86.46	1,486.70	47.7	1,620.86
HO (inc GEO)	131.16	383.14	189.77	704.07
MoD	1.59	0.00	0.00	1.59
DfT	21.59	[1]—	[1]—	21.59
DWP	17.95	-20.81	31.63	262.67[3]
Total	2,596.36	13,954.63	16,598.51	33,383.39

[1] Not provided
[2] Minimal
[3] DWP total reduction figure includes a £233.9 million reduction which has not been classified as admin or programme expenditure.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to *(a)* draw the attention of and *(b)* encourage the involvement of hon. Members in identifying best practice in civil society. [44449]

Mr Hurd: Both I and the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr Maude) have taken steps to keep MPs abreast of developments on the big society. For example we recently published a written ministerial statement that set out the current position on development of the big society bank. In November last year I wrote to all MPs and invited them to bring in VCSE groups from their constituencies for open discussions and so far 29 such meetings have been held.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Wirral

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to promote the development of more affordable housing in Wirral West constituency. [54414]

Andrew Stunell: We are investing nearly £4.5 billion in new affordable housing to help deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes between 2011-12 and 2014-15 in England. We expect providers of affordable housing and local authorities to work closely to identify the level of provision needed in their areas.

The location, number and availability of affordable housing will be dependent on agreements between providers and the Homes and Communities Agency, in consultation with local authorities.

The New Homes Bonus also rewards councils for the building of new affordable housing.

Alcoholic Drinks

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on the contents of ministerial drinks cabinets since 12 May 2010. [48406]

Robert Neill: Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government do not have drinks cabinets. No expenditure has been undertaken under this administration.

Government Procurement Card

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Government Procurement Cards have been issued to Audit Commission *(a)* commissioners and *(b)* other staff in the last 24 months; and what the name is of each (i) commissioner and (ii) director who has used such a card during that period. [54511]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has not issued any Government Procurement Cards to Commissioners. Three new cards were issued to other staff in the last 24 months. Only one of these cards was issued to a director and this was Eugene Sullivan, Chief Executive. The Chief Executive has used his card once in the time period.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 195W, on the Government Procurement Card, what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* gross amount and *(c)* supplier was in respect of each transaction undertaken by the Audit Commission using the Government Procurement Card in 2010-11. [54538]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission made changes to its purchase to pay procedures in 2010 and reviewed GPC holders, usage and limits. As a result of these changes, the total value of GPC transactions has reduced by 50 per cent in 2010/11.

The detail of the transactions requested will be placed in the House of Commons Library. Please note that the date is the statement date as the date of purchase is unavailable.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 195W, on the Government Procurement Card, which Audit Commission transactions on the Government Procurement Card in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 were made by each director and board member of the Commission. [54539][1]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The following table lists transactions made on the Government Procurement Card for 2008/09 and 2009/10 by the Audit Commission's Chief Executive and Chairman. No other directors or Commissioners hold cards.

No transactions were made between January and March 2010.

Transaction date	*Supplier*	*Amount (£)*
Chairman		
2008		
27 October	Newquay Airport	5.00
6 November	British AIRW1252449202641	-191.50
12 November	B A Int-Dom 1252451231894	349.80
12 November	Newquay Airport	5.00
19 November	B A Int-Dom 1252451458879	6.00
19 November	Transpennine Exprs Radisson Edwardian	2.90
12 December	Manchester	156.95
17 December	St Martins on the Isle	125.00
2009		
29 January	The Cinnamon Club	230.29
19 May	Air France 0572181224177	88.76
19 May	www.Flybe.COCW3042	44.48
24 June	Corinthia Towers Hotel	528.37
02 July	WP-Mal Maison Limi	84.00
Chief executive		
2008		
29 September	www.Ibahn.Com	15.00
9 October	Hospitality Services	15.00
10 November	Southern	22.80
19 November	Nat Express E Cst	53.00
4 December	Sofitel St. James	73.69
4 December	Fredericks	108.56
8 December	Hilton Hotel	206.05
9 December	Sofitel St. James	114.75
11 December	Fredericks	153.79
12 December	Marriott	35.60
12 December	Coq D'Argent	112.16
15 December	Jurys Birmingham	429.90
16 December	Indigo Restaurant	107.94
18 December	Lescargot	605.03
18 December	Sherpherd's	105.75
19 December	Portland Spa Hotel	166.87
19 December	The Butlers Wharf Chop	147.54
21 December	Crowne Plaza	133.99
22 December	Holiday Inns	259.25
2009		
29 January	Arbutus Restaurants Lt	94.84
29 January	Bank Restaurant B001	94.56
29 January	Bank Restaurant B001	82.35
29 January	Bonds Restaurant and Bar	85.33
29 January	OXO Tower Restaurant	101.53
29 January	Quirinale Ltd	122.63
29 January	Quirinale Ltd	108.00
29 January	Quirinale Ltd	101.25
29 January	Roussillon	497.89
24 April	Parliamentary Book Shop	45.00
5 May	Quirinale	240.19
15 May	Coq D'Argent	90.00
11 June	Le Cafe Anglais	108.06
19 June	The Don	109.46
29 June	Shepherd's	98.44
30 June	Swisscom Internet	60.00
22 July	Albannack	92.81
5 August	Islington Pay and Display	7.30
23 September	Marriott	15.00
24 September	Hakkasan	91.76
25 September	Shepherd's	73.13
1 October	Hilton Hotel	90.45
1 October	Hilton Hotel	3.95

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[1] *[Official Report, 18 May 2011, Vol. 528, c. 1MC.]*

Transaction date	*Supplier*	*Amount (£)*
5 October	Virgin (WC) Trains	193.50
6 October	The Olive Press (Manchester)	52.00
8 October	Jurys Manchester	620.00
21 October	Hotel Du Vin	74.69
22 October	Hilton	121.80
22 October	Holiday Inns	29.20
29 October	Sofitel St. James	96.75
2 November	Quirinale	87.69
29 December	Parliamentary Book Shop	59.35

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 195W, on the Government Procurement Card, what the purpose was of each purchase made by the Government Procurement Card by the Audit Commission from *(a)* Flying Flowers, *(b)* Art and Flowers, *(c)* Petals of Narborough, *(d)* Bunches Florapost, *(e)* Serenata Flowers, *(f)* Interflora and *(g)* other florists in 2009-10. [54579]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

In common with many other employers, the Audit Commission operated a staff recognition scheme from 2007. This enabled managers to recognise the exceptional contribution or achievement of employees by awarding a one-off non-cash recognition award of between £20 and £50 per person. An employee could not receive more than one recognition award each year. The scheme ended in March 2011. in the last year, out of a total of 2,000 employees, 150 primarily junior staff received an award at an average cost of £35.

The purpose of the purchases was:

a) Flying Flowers—staff recognition scheme

b) Arts and Flowers—staff recognition scheme

c) Petals of Narborough—flowers for reception at Leicester office for April, May and June 2009. We stopped buying flowers for reception in July 2009.

d) Bunches Florapost—gift for members of staff—fully reimbursed, and therefore at no cost to the public purse

e) Serenata Flowers—staff recognition scheme

f) Interflora—gift for member of staff—fully reimbursed (£36.98) and staff recognition scheme

g) Other florists: Frosts & Landscapes—rental of a Christmas tree for our main office. We did not rent or buy a Christmas tree in 2010. Eden Florists—flowers for the funeral of a member of staff.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 195W, on the Government Procurement Card, what the purpose was of each meal purchase by the Audit Commission using the Government Procurement Card in 2009-10 at *(a)* Coq d'Argent, *(b)* Quirinale, *(c)* Albannach, *(d)* Bank, *(e)* Brasserie Blanc and *(f)* Millbank Spice; and who attended each such meal. [54580]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The payments to a) Coq d'Argent b) Quirinale and c) Albannach have already been published in our hospitality and expenses register on the Audit Commission's website. They were for meetings between senior Audit Commission staff and senior contacts at partner organisations.

Attendees were:

a) Coq d'Argent

Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and Evan Davis, BBC.

b) Quirinale

There were two dinners held at Quirinale. The first was attended by Steve Bundred, Chief Executive, Michael O'Higgins, Chairman, the Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO and the Chairman of the NAO.

The second dinner was attended by Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and HM Chief Inspector, Ofsted.

c) Albannach

Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and Director of Communications, Cabinet Office.

The payment for d) Bank was for a dinner to bring together senior NHS and local government executives and partner inspectorates to discuss the new Comprehensive Area Assessment framework.

Attendees were:

Michael O'Higgins, Chairman

Gareth Davies, Managing Director Local Government

Karen McConnell—Central Region Director, Audit Commission

Stephen Hughes—CEO Birmingham City Council

John Polychronakis—CEO Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Trish Haines—CEO Worcester County Council

Antoinette Jackson—CEO Cambridge City Council

Dr Sandy Bradbrook—CEO Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT

Nick Hodgson—CEO Derby County Council

Peter West—Head of Commissioner Methods Care Quality Commission

The payment for e) Brasserie Blanc was for a meal for a team of 12 individuals under the Audit Commission's staff recognition scheme. In common with many other employers the Audit Commission operated a staff recognition scheme from 2007. This enabled managers to recognise the exceptional contribution or achievement of employees by awarding a one-off non-cash recognition award of between £20 and 50 per person. An employee could not receive more than one recognition award each year. The scheme ended in March 2011. In the last year, out of a total of 2,000 employees, 150 primarily junior staff received an award at an average cost of £35.

The payments for f) Millbank Spice were for evening meals for a number of Audit Commission staff staying overnight in London on business.

Because the information requested includes personal information, we have been unable to disclose the names of more junior staff who attended meals in e) and f) as this would be a breach of the first principle of the Data Protection Act.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54639]

Robert Neill: All litigation cases against the Department are managed by the Treasury Solicitors Department. To answer this question, the Treasury Solicitors Department would be required to check through their records for the last three years, separating our civil claims from other types of litigation, and separating out successful from unsuccessful cases. This could be done only at disproportionate cost, and the Treasury Solicitors Department would charge this department for the work.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local economic partnerships on the need for enterprise zones prior to the announcement on 23 March 2011 on enterprise zones. [51912]

Robert Neill: Officials began discussion with local authorities and local enterprise partnerships about the possible location of enterprise zones in March 2011. This followed decisions by the Government about the criteria that should be used to select local enterprise partnership areas.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that landowners within enterprise zones are prevented from receiving significant benefits. [52729]

Robert Neill: In earlier enterprise zones business rate relief lasted for 10 years. This sometimes meant that, over time, rate reductions were passed on' to landlords in the form of increased rents..

In the new generation of enterprise zones we are limiting business rate relief to 5 years. As the average lease is (around) 6.5 years—this will reduce the ability of landowners to pass on business rate reductions into higher rents when leases are re-negotiated.

Enterprise Zones: Non-domestic Rates

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the monetary value of business rates to be retained by local authorities over the 25 years following the establishment of the enterprise zones set out in The Plan for Growth. [53133]

Robert Neill: All business rate growth within the enterprise zone for a period of at least 25 years will be retained. The amount that authorities retain will depend on a range of factors, including the location, size and nature of the successful bids.

EU Grants and Loans: North East England

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 390W, on EU grants and loans: North East, what the monetary value is of the funding to the North East England 2007-13 European Regional Development Competitiveness programme that remains uncommitted. [54374]

Robert Neill: The allocation for the North East England 2007-13 European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness programme is €375.7 million. The total amount that has been committed is €238.1 million. Therefore €137.6 million remains uncommitted.

I also refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 48-49WS, on how we intend to improve the operation and delivery of the European Regional Development Fund in England.

Government Procurement Card

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Audit Commission has taken to encourage the use of the Government Procurement Cards by local authorities. [54510]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 10 May 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission has not encouraged local authorities to use Government Procurement Cards. However, I note that The Office of Government Commerce says it is working with Buying Solutions to improve the visibility, adoption and use of procurement cards across the public sector to help in meeting efficiency programmes, describing the GPC as 'the first choice for UK Government and UK public sector organisations…The GPC is an established and proven solution which has been selected and endorsed by the UK Government'.

Historic Buildings: Planning Permission

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in local authority staffing levels on his Department's ability to maintain the effective operation of Planning Policy Statement 5. [54852]

Robert Neill: The Department has not carried out such an assessment. It is for individual authorities to decide how the resources available to them should be deployed in the light of priorities.

Housing: Building Alterations

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the category of dwellings that may have permitted development rights in order to include flats. [54026]

Robert Neill: The Government have no current plans to grant flats the permitted development rights which exist for dwellinghouses under Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended).

A reason for excluding flats in this way is that the exercise of permitted development rights by a flat owner could impact negatively on others within the same block.

Housing: Older People

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration his Department is giving to planning for the housing needs of older people in developing its definition of sustainable development. [52993]

Robert Neill: The housing needs of older people are a material consideration for local planning authorities whether they are writing local plan policies or determining planning applications. In the summer we will be consulting on the draft National Planning Policy Framework which is to replace all the current Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes. The framework is still being drafted, so I am not in a position to discuss its contents. However, the Government will welcome any comments in relation to the draft policies in respect of planning for housing, including provision for older people.

Land: Databases

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has for the supply of aerial photography and height data following the cessation of the Pan Government Agreement. [52743]

Andrew Stunell: The Pan Government Agreement continues to provide aerial photography and height data.

No decisions have been made on the future provision for the supply of aerial photography and height data once the current contract ends.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions he has had meetings with representatives of the *(a)* Federation of Small Businesses, *(b)* Institute of Directors and *(c)* Forum of Private Business to discuss the national representative body for local enterprise partnerships to be led by the British Chambers of Commerce since May 2010. [54586]

Robert Neill: Ministers meet regularly with business representative bodies on a range of policy issues, including local enterprise partnerships.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procurement process his Department used to select the British Chambers of Commerce to lead a national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [54587]

Robert Neill: The British Chamber of Commerce offered to run a network of Local Enterprise Partnerships and submitted a proposal to support this offer. The decision to engage with a British Chamber of Commerce—led network has been made on the basis of their good fit, national reach and ambition to deliver this work across the country for Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Department is not procuring this service but will support this activity led by British Chamber of Commerce.

No grant agreement is yet in place and any funding awarded will be subject to a satisfactory funding agreement which will be dependent on the quality of their final business case.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which organisations were consulted on the decision to select the British Chambers of Commerce to lead a national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; [54588]

(2) what the aims and objectives are of the new national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [54589]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Torbay (Mr Sanders) and the hon. Member for Blackpool South (Mr Marsden) on 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1035W.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median cost was of business rates to businesses of each size category in the (i) manufacturing, (ii) pharmaceutical, (iii) haulage, (iv) construction, (v) retail, (vi) financial services, (vii) hospitality and leisure, (viii) accountancy, (ix) legal and (x) IT and telecoms industries in the last five years for which figures are available. [52829]

Robert Neill: The Department collects information on total business rates revenue and number of hereditaments by local authority on the national non-domestic rates forecast and outturn forms. However, this information is not split by size of business or by industry categories. Since the Department does not collect individual hereditament data, it is not possible to calculate median averages.

The following table shows information on average net rate yield per hereditament for England as a whole:

Net rate yield per hereditament in England

		£
	Cash	*Real terms (2010 prices)*
1997-98	6,940	9,893
1998-99	7,080	9,701
1999-2000	7,394	9,972
2000-01	8,110	10,622
2001-02	8,888	11,440
2002-03	8,998	11,410
2003-04	8,921	10,969
2004-05	9,110	10,930
2005-06	9,647	11,218
2006-07	10,275	11,650
2007-08	10,330	11,205
2008-09	11,272	11,735
2009-10	11,429	12,039
2010-11 (est)	11,807	11,807

Planning Permission

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local planning authorities continue to be required to consider regional strategies as set out in ODPM circular 01/2006 when deciding upon local planning applications. [51884]

Robert Neill: The Government are abolishing regional strategies through the Localism Bill. This is a material consideration that local planning authorities can take into account.

On 13 April, my Department published a draft Planning Policy Statement on Traveller sites (which we intend will replace Circular 01/2006), which councils can take into account as emerging policy.

Ports

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid into his Department's scheme to enable port companies to pay off retrospective rate demands over eight years; and for what purposes the money paid into the scheme has been spent. [54304]

Robert Neill: Local authorities reported that in England in 2009-10 there was a net reduction in non-domestic rate yield of £8 million relating to schedule of payment agreements.

This was calculated from the amount of relief granted by the signing of schedule of payment agreements in 2009-10 (£15 million) less the amount of money collected by local authorities in 2009-10 in respect of schedule of payment agreements (£7 million) entered into up to 31 March 2010.

All non-domestic rates revenues, collected by billing authorities, are passed to the central non-domestic rates pool and are redistributed to local authorities under the Formula Grant scheme.

Property Development: Floods

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(b)* the Environment Agency on the powers of the Environment Agency to object to a planning application for developments in flood zones. [54910]

Robert Neill: My Department has been working closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on all aspects of planning reform, including on development and flood risk. When taking forward our reforms we will ensure that the Environment Agency retains a role in the planning process that facilitates their input in a timely and proportionate way.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he took in his Department's business planning processes for future years of the use of former regional development agency assets; and what the net financial effect is of the use of such assets. [51594]

Robert Neill: £100 million of income from the former regional development agencies' asset disposals in 2013-14 is incorporated in departmental spending plans. The regional development agencies had a very broad portfolio of land and property assets and we are committed to ensuring it is developed out to maximise the impacts it can have on strengthening local economies up and down the country.

DCLG will also be making use of European Regional Development Fund related finance, project and HR data assets belonging to the former regional development agencies. We are currently scoping work needed to bring the assets into effective use.

Regional Planning and Development

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to assist local authorities in determining the appropriate level of site provision for Gypsies and Travellers which was formerly provided by regional spatial strategies. [50572]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to my Department's press notice of 13 April on Travellers and planning, which provides a broad outline of the initiatives that my Department is taking to reform the planning process, to improve community relations and to work with local communities to provide the right level of provision for local authorised sites. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Rents: Exeter

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the potential effects on rent levels in Exeter of the Government's restructuring of council house rents. [54395]

Grant Shapps: Successive Governments have issued annual guidance on rent rises but final responsibility for setting rents lies with the local authority. Current rent restructuring policy, which is unchanged from that inherited from the last administration, includes a recommended limit on individual rent increases of no more than RPI+ 0.5% + £2 in any year. Application of this limit is at the discretion of the local authority. It would therefore be difficult to estimate actual rent levels in Exeter.

Social Clubs

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department provides support for social clubs in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK. [54246]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 May 2011]*: Social clubs play a crucial role in lives of communities all over the country. The Department for Communities and Local Government is very supportive of their important function and through the Community Right to Buy provisions contained in the Localism Bill, communities will be provided with greater opportunities to take over assets that are of importance to them. Consultation on the Community Right to Buy closed on 3 May 2011 and we will be providing a response in the summer.

The Government have also been working with BIG Lottery Fund on interim arrangements to establish a big society bank (to help social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations access the investment they need). The big society bank will work with social investment intermediaries to grow the social investment market, encouraging more investment in social change and broadening the finance options open to the sector.

Social clubs in England may be eligible for mandatory or discretionary business rates relief. The granting of discretionary rate relief is ultimately a decision for the local authority but the Government believes it has an important role to play in supporting not-for-profit organisations, recognising the public benefit that they give to their local community.

The Government's increase in small business, rate relief for two years has also benefited many social clubs.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the average proportion of rent which will be met from housing benefit in social housing properties subject to 80 per cent. of market rents; [55025]

(2) what estimate he has made of the level of social rents in each local authority area where these are set at 80 per cent. of market rents; and how this compares with *(a)* average levels of social rent and *(b)* the 30th percentile of private sector rent. [55026]

Grant Shapps: As explained in the Affordable Homes Programme Framework, which can be found at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/Affordable-Homes-Framework.pdf

registered providers will be able to let a property at an affordable rent (inclusive of service charges, where applicable) of up to 80% of the gross market rent where it is part of a development agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency. It would be open to providers to offer a rent at less than 80% of market rates if that best suited local circumstances. A provider's calculation of market rent would need to be based on a residential lettings estimate for a property of the appropriate size, condition and area. Valuations should be in accordance with a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors recognised method.

Illustrative modelling of the affordable rent policy, including assumptions about affordable rent levels and the average proportion of rent that will met by housing benefit for affordable rent properties will be set out in the Impact Assessment, due to be published shortly. The Impact Assessment will also describe the uncertainties around such housing benefit estimates. Data on affordable rent levels by local authority are not available.

Statistics on social rent levels of housing association, local authority and private rents provided by the Department can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/rentslettings/

Local housing allowance rates by broad rental market areas, which are subject to different boundaries to those of local authorities, are determined by the Valuation Office Agency and are based on the 30th percentile of private market rents, subject to caps. Information on these rates for May 2011 can be found at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/LHADirect/BRMA_May_2011.htm

Broad rental market areas are large in size, and summary figures will mask very significant variations in rents.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of total housing stock was social housing in each local authority in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2009-10. [55027]

Andrew Stunell: A table showing the figures requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Data from several sources are used in the answer to this parliamentary question. Local authority-owned stock is from the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and its predecessor Housing Investment Programme (HIPI) returns; housing association stock is from the Tenant Services Authority's Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR); and total stock figures are from DCLG's Dwelling Stock Estimates. Each of these is published and in the public domain.

Social Rented Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* private and *(b)* social housing units were completed in each London local authority area in each of the last five years. [55014]

Andrew Stunell: Figures for new build housing completions in each English local authority district in each of the last five years, split into private enterprise, housing association and local authority tenures, are published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in Live Table 253 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

However, for figures specifically on completions of social, or affordable, housing, a more detailed and accurate source is the Department for Communities and Local Government's Affordable Housing Supply statistics. Figures up to and including 2009-10 are published in Live Table 1008 on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. The table, which includes both new-build completions and acquisitions, can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

The next House Building statistical release, containing figures for 2010-11, will be published on 19 May.

The next Affordable Housing Supply statistical release, containing figures for 2010-11, is scheduled to be published in the autumn.

Government Procurement Card

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* gross amount, *(c)* level 3 line item detail and *(d)* supplier was in respect of each transaction undertaken by the Standards Board using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [54577]

Robert Neill: The Standards Board for England does not use the Government's Procurement Card.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the effects of the staged increase in the national fee assumption for adult apprenticeships between 2006 and 2010-11 on the numbers of micro-businesses offering apprenticeships in *(a)* the Brighton and Hove area and *(b)* nationally; and if he will make a statement. [53019]

Mr Hayes: We are strongly committed to supporting employers to train their staff so that they have the skills they need to grow their businesses. We know that apprenticeships are valued by employers and individuals, as they yield measurable economic benefits for both employers and their employees. Since the 2005/06 academic year (AY) there has been an expectation that, as employers benefit from the skills and training their employees receive, they should contribute more to the cost of training. The level of contribution expected from employers, referred to as the assumed contribution, has risen in stages.

The following table sets out the assumed fee contribution between 2006/07 AY and 2009/10 AY, and the number of apprenticeships that were delivered to learners aged 19+ living in the Brighton and Hove local authority area and across England over this period. There is no central record that shows the number of adult apprenticeships delivered by size of employer by local authority area. The assumed fee contribution for 2010/11 AY is 50%.

	Academic year (AY)			
	2006/07	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Assumed Fee contribution (percentage)	32.5	37.5	42.75	47.5
Brighton and Hove local authority	240	440	540	550
England	78,800	117,200	140,600	162,900

Data sources:
Statistical First Release published on 31 March 2011, Learning and Skills Council Statements of Priority for the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2006-09 and 2009-10.

"Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November 2010) provides illustrative forecasts of the number of adult training places that Government investment can support. It is anticipated that 388,490 adult apprenticeship places will be funded across England in the 2010/11 academic year. Individual colleges and training organisations have been given the freedom and flexibility to work directly with their local partners, to determine the actual mix of provision that best meets the needs of their communities. As take up follows employer demand, it is not possible to provide estimates of the geographical distribution of apprenticeship places or funding.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanism he has put in place to monitor the adequacy of supply of apprenticeships for those aged 19 to 25 in *(a)* the Brighton and Hove area and *(b)* nationally; and if he will make a statement. [53020]

Mr Hayes: The apprenticeships programme is demand led. Government provides funding and forecasts the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand, taking advantage of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system. Funding of places for adult apprentices, those aged 19 and over, is not further split by age and we do not directly control the level of supply of places for those aged 19 to 25.

The coalition Government are committed to increasing freedoms for further education colleges and training providers, so that they are able to provide tailored solutions to meet the needs within their communities. "Skills for Sustainable Growth" and "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" set out these principles. The National Apprenticeship Service, working with the Skills Funding Agency and local authorities, regularly review the take up of apprenticeships by both employers and individuals (across all age groups) to ensure that demand for apprenticeships is being met by supply.

Across the programme, supply of apprenticeship places is at an all time high. Overall, with the new measures announced in this year's Budget, this Government will deliver at least 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years, compared to the previous Government's plans. In the 2009/10 academic year, 19 to 24-year-olds started 113,800 apprenticeship frameworks, a 34.3% increase on 2008/09.

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect on apprenticeship take-up rates of the withdrawal of design and technology from the compulsory element of the national curriculum. [54415]

Mr Hayes: It would be premature to make any assessment of the potential impact such a decision could have on apprenticeship take-up rates, as no decision has yet been made by the Department for Education on whether design and technology will continue to be part of the national curriculum. The Department for Education is currently undertaking a full review of the national curriculum, and plans to announce proposals at the end of the year.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many apprenticeship starts there were in *(a)* each of the last three quarters of 2010 and *(b)* the first quarter of 2011; [54499]

(2) how many apprenticeship places were *(a)* available and *(b)* taken up in the year ended (i) March 2010 and (ii) March 2011. [54500]

Mr Hayes: Tables 1 as follows shows apprenticeship programme starts for each of the last three quarters of 2009/10 and the first quarter of 2010/11.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by quarter, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Academic year	*Quarter*	*Apprenticeship starts*
2009/10	November 2009 to January 2010	51,000
	February 2010 to April 2010	64,800

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by quarter, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Academic year	*Quarter*	*Apprenticeship starts*
	May 2010 to July 2010	64,500
2010/11	August 2010 to October 2010 (Provisional)	122,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Provisional estimates for 2010/11 are not directly comparable with figures for earlier years.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

On the 1 April 2010, 265,400 people were participating on an apprenticeship programme. As of the 31 January, the latest date for which we have published information, 307,400 people were participating on an apprenticeship programme. Participation figures show the number of apprentices in learning on a given date. However, to ensure consistency and clarity, for comparative purposes we use the number of people starting an apprenticeship over a full academic year.

Information on apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Finance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been allocated to apprenticeships in 2011-12; how much such funding is available to fund apprenticeships in the local enterprise area covering Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire; and if he will make a statement. [53224]

Mr Hayes: The Young People's Learning Agency's 16-19 "Funding Statement" (December, 2010) set out expected investment in 16-18 apprenticeship provision in the 2011-12 financial year of £799 million.

This Department's "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November 2010) set out our plans to invest £3.9 billion in adult further education and skills in the 2011-12 financial year. This includes £3.7 billion for over 3 million adult (19+) training places funded through the Skills Funding Agency with £605 million earmarked for 19+ apprenticeship provision. Budget 2011 announced an additional £180 million for 19+ apprenticeship provision over the spending review period.

This Department is currently considering the split of funding across each of the spending review years, including the level of additional investment in 19+ apprenticeships for the 2011-12 financial year.

Take-up by region follows employer demand and providers can deliver apprenticeships across a number of different regions. For this reason, we are not able to provide estimates of the geographical distribution of apprenticeship funding in 2011-12 financial year.

Apprentices: Small Businesses

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage small and medium-sized businesses to take on apprentices; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [50239]

Mr Hayes: As part of the Budget statement, this Government announced a new £75 million programme of training and other targeted support focused specifically on small and medium-sized businesses to help them access advanced and higher level apprenticeships.

This package of support was developed as a result of discussions with employers as part of the growth review and is expected to particularly benefit advanced manufacturing and digital and creative industries. We want to support businesses coming together to build advanced and higher level apprenticeship schemes to address their skills gaps.

As the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), also announced recently we will be working together as a priority to reduce bureaucracy for small and medium enterprises making it easier for them to take on new apprentices.

Apprentices: Staffordshire

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employers have offered to provide apprenticeships within the Stoke-on-Trent/Staffordshire local enterprise partnership area; and what steps he is taking to encourage take-up of such apprenticeships. [53225]

Mr Hayes: From 1 August 2010 to 31 January, 2,300 employers[1] started an apprentice through their learning provider (just under 2,000 in Staffordshire and about 640 in Stoke).[2]

This Government are committed to boosting the supply of apprenticeship places, which is why we have put funding in place to deliver at least 250,000 more Apprenticeships over the next four years.

[1] Source—ILR data from 1 August 2010 to 31 January 2011

[2] Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent reflects activity within the local education area boundaries as BIS are yet to confirm the final reporting arrangements for LEP areas

AssetCo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many export licences have been granted to AssetCo plc for the sale of equipment to the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for use by the *(a)* army, *(b)* police and *(c)* fire service in the UAE in the last five years for which figures are available. [54211]

Mr Prisk: We have no record of any export licences applications from this company.

British Library Business and IP Centre

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the British Library's Business and IP Centre regional pilot study in the North East; if he will estimate the potential effect of the Centre on the economy of the North East; and what steps he plans to take maximise the economic benefit to the North East from the Centre. [52940]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* I have made no assessment of the potential effectiveness of a business and IP centre in the north-east of England, however, a scoping exercise commissioned by the British Library in December 2010 found that there would be demand for a pilot in the north-east. An independent evaluation by Adroit Economics in 2010 found the London Business and IP Centre delivered an increase in gross value added of £1.29 for every £1 invested. The British Library is currently exploring options to establish a centre in Newcastle, based on the London model.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support he plans to provide the British Library Business and IP Centre following the termination of its funding by London Development Agency. [52941]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The core services provided by the British Library Business and IP Centre will continue to be funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport grant after London Development Agency (LDA) funding ceases. The British Library has successfully applied for European Regional Development Funding of £2.4 million to provide additional advice for growth businesses over the period 2011/12 to 2014/15. The application has been approved by the Mayor of London and contract negotiations are under way. Bridge funding is currently being provided by LDA.

Bureaucracy: Government Departments

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many comments expressing *(a)* support for existing regulations and *(b)* requests for additional regulations he has received through the Red Tape Challenge website. [54487]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* Since the launch of the Red Tape Challenge website on 7 April, we have received over 14,000 comments. The Departments leading each theme will consider all the comments, which are publicly available on the website at:

www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

The presence of a particular regulation or law on the website should not be read as implying any intention on the part of the Government to remove that regulation or law from the statute book

Business: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* new business start ups and *(b)* business insolvencies there have been in Bassetlaw constituency since 8 May 2010. [52943]

Mr Davey: Statistics on business start-ups are available from the Office of National Statistics publication on Business Demography. This is an annual publication and data from 2010 will not be available until December 2011.

Official statistics covering corporate insolvencies for England and Wales are not currently available at sub-national level.

Quarterly totals for both compulsory and creditors' voluntary liquidations in England and Wales are presented in Table 1 of the Quarterly Insolvency Statistics, the latest publication of which can be found on the Insolvency Service website here:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/201102/table1.pdf

Business: Regulation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's announcement of 18 March 2011 on business regulation, if he will bring forward proposals to publish details of new regulations which have not been submitted to the Regulatory Policy Committee or the Reducing Regulation Committee. [52838]

Mr Prisk: No new regulation which has an impact on business should be introduced without it first being submitted to the Regulatory Policy Committee and the Reducing Regulation Committee, as demonstrated for domestic regulation by the "One-In, One-Out: Statement of New Regulation" published on 7 April.

Departmental Work Experience

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bassetlaw constituency have been offered internships in his Department since 8 May 2010. [53206]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has offered 14 internships to UK students since 8 May 2010. None of those students reside in the Bassetlaw constituency.

Economic Growth

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to The Plan for Growth, what his definition of an economically significant project is. [52822]

Mr Prisk: With reference to the planning system, s76a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) to call in planning applications if they are of national or regional importance. Generally such cases are identified on a case by case basis and as set out in the Plan for Growth the Government will consider using these powers for projects that have potential for significant economic benefits beyond the area where the development is based and the planning decision made. Local Enterprise Partnerships, for example, may play a role in identifying such projects.

Employment: Overseas Students

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effects on the further education sector of proposed regulations to restrict employment of international students. [54900]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 9 May 2011]*: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has had wide-ranging discussions with Home Office, at ministerial and official level, exploring all aspects of proposed changes to the student immigration system.

This Government value the contribution international students make to our further education sector but are committed to reducing the numbers of non-EU immigrants to this country and as part of this commitment we are seeking to reduce the level of abuse of the system among student immigrants. In particular, we need to ensure that students coming to this country genuinely want to study and are not using the student immigration route as a means of working in this country.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of international students attending further education colleges who will be affected by proposed restrictions on working hours. [54903]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 9 May 2011]*: The UK Border Agency has carried out an assessment of the impact of the changes they are making to Tier 4 which will be published in the summer, however this will not contain an estimate of students affected by these restrictions as we do not hold centralised data in sufficient detail on international students in the further education sector.

English Language: Education

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of English for speakers of other languages students in *(a)* September 2010, *(b)* January 2011 and *(c)* May 2011. [54240]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of Government-funded learners in England participating on an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course in 2009/10, and provisional data for the first six months of 2010/11 (August 2010 to January 2011), the latest available published data.

ESOL participation in England, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (August to January).

	ESOL participation
2009/10 full year (final)	201,500
2010/11 August to January (provisional)	147,900

Notes:

1. These data cover participation in Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further Education/Learner responsive provision includes general further education colleges including tertiary, sixth form colleges—agricultural and horticultural colleges and art and design colleges, specialist colleges and external institutions.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Geography is based on learners' home postcode.
4. Provisional figures for 2010/11 are not directly comparable to final figures for 2009/10.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

Export Controls

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what mechanisms are in place to ensure the protection of *(a)* democratic freedoms and *(b)* human rights when assessing applications for export control licences; [54832]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that export control licences are not granted in circumstances where the equipment to be sold could be used to *(a)* suppress democratic expression and *(b)* abuse human rights. [54833]

Mr Prisk: All UK export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated European Union (EU) and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. We will not issue any licences if to do so would be inconsistent with the Criteria. Our assessment includes consideration of how an end-user is likely to use the proposed export, the circumstances in which it might be used, and whether it could exacerbate conflict or otherwise contravene the criteria.

Criterion 2 relates to 'the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country of final destination'. Having assessed the recipient country's attitude towards relevant principles established by international human rights instruments, we will 'not issue an export licence if there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression'.

Foreign Investment in UK

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Plan for Growth, what plans he has to provide a bespoke service to key inward investors; and if he will make a statement. [53129]

Mr Prisk: The Government are currently developing a new approach to ensure that major investors and exporters, whose decisions and business success will deliver significant benefits to the UK economy, receive a consistent and joined-up service from Government.

A new cross-governmental strategic relations team, based in UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), under a leadership with extensive private sector experience, will co-ordinate this work, adopting best practice from private sector professional services organisations. More details will be contained in the UKTI Strategy 2011-15 to be published on 10 May.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on contracting out the delivery of support for inward investment by UK Trade & Industry; and if he will make a statement. [53130]

Mr Prisk: On 31 March 2011, UKTI awarded a three-year contract (capable of extension to five years) to PA Consulting Services Ltd for delivery of new national inward investment arrangements. PA Consulting will deliver these new arrangements in partnership with the British Chambers of Commerce and OCO Consulting.

The new arrangements will provide resource to:

a. co-ordinate and manage inward investment propositions throughout the UK;

b. support the local elements of delivery of inward investment support, including investor development, in England, excepting London which has its own arrangements.

This is as set out in the notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*:

http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:36720Q-2010:TEXT:EN:HTML

A press statement can be found on the UK Trade and Investment website:

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/pt_pt/uktihome/media/pressRelease/128993.html?null

Further Education

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to his answer of 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 305W, on further education, which of the further education colleges listed undertook capital works of a monetary value of more than £1 million in the last five years. [54382]

Mr Hayes: Of the further education colleges listed in my answer of 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 305W, the following 25 FE Colleges have undertaken capital works of a monetary value of more than £1 million in the last five years:

Boston College, Lincolnshire
Broxtowe College (now called Castle College)
Bury College
Canterbury College
City College Birmingham
City of Sunderland College
Halesowen College
Highbury College
Lambeth College
Lincoln College
Matthew Boulton College (now called Birmingham Metropolitan College)
National Star College
Newcastle-under-Lyme College
North Lindsey College
Royal National College for the Blind, Hereford
Royal School for the Deaf
Salford City College
South Staffordshire College
Stoke on Trent College
Strode College
The Manchester College
Trafford College
Tresham Institute
Walford and North Shropshire College
Warwickshire College
Total: 25

Further Education: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the consultation document on the introduction of loans for further education students referred to on page 13 of his Department's Business Plan published in November 2010. [54052]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* In November 2010, we announced in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" that further education fee loans will be repaid on an income contingent basis in line with the recently announced approach for higher education fee loans. Further education fee loans will share key features with higher education fee loans, we plan to publish proposals for implementing further education fee loans following the publication of the Higher Education White Paper.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with which stakeholder groups and organisations he has discussed his proposals for the introduction of loans for further education students over the age of 24 years at Level 3 and the age of 25 years at Level 2. [54053]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* Proposals for implementing further education fee loans have been discussed with the following organisations.

Association of Colleges
National Union of Students
Third Sector National Learning Alliance
Dudley College
South Tyneside College
Association of Learning Providers
Hospitality Industry Training
Skills Funding Agency
Student Loans Company
National Institute of Adult Continuing Education
British Telecom
Apprenticeship Ambassador Network

Proposals have also been discussed with HMRC chaired Employer Student Loans Reference Group.

We have announced that further education fee loans will be introduced for those aged 24 and over undertaking provision at Level 3 and above. There are no plans to introduce fee loans for those undertaking provision below Level 3.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the proposed consultation document on the introduction of loans for further education students has not been published. [54055]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* In November 2010, we announced in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" that further education fee loans will be repaid on an income contingent basis in line with the recently announced approach for higher education fee loans. Further education fee loans will share key features with higher education fee loans, we plan to publish proposals for implementing further education fee loans following the publication of the Higher Education White Paper. Since November 2010, we have consulted with a wide range of organisations about the implementation of further education fee loans.

Further Education: Loans

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will commission an equality impact assessment of his proposals for the introduction of loans for further education students over the age of 24 years at Level 3 and the age of 25 years at Level 2. [54050]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* We have announced that further education fee loans will be introduced for those aged 24 and over undertaking provision at Level 3 and above. There are no plans to introduce fee loans for those undertaking provision below Level 3.

We plan to publish proposals for implementing further education fee loans following the publication of the Higher Education White Paper. An equality impact assessment will be published alongside the proposals.

Green Investment Bank

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to announce the proposed location of the headquarters of the Green Investment Bank. [51922]

Mr Prisk: We expect to make an announcement about the Green Investment Bank (GIB) later this month. However, it is unlikely to include the precise location of the GIB.

Medicine: Education

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that people wishing to undertake medical degrees are not deterred from doing so by changes to arrangements for student finance; and if he will make a statement. [55006]

Mr Willetts: No eligible student in England, entering higher education for the first time in 2012, including those studying for medicine, will have to pay their fees up front. In addition there will be a more generous package of support for living costs, comprising loans and non repayable grants for those students from households with incomes of up to £42,600.

Students from families with an income no greater than £25,000 per annum may also be eligible for support from the National Scholarship Programme. Universities will determine their own eligibility criteria for the programme.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department provides financial assistance to students wishing to undertake medical degrees; and if he will make a statement. [55007]

Mr Willetts: The Department provides financial support for students in England studying for a first degree, including those studying medicine who can apply for support for the first four years of their course. Support for subsequent years of a medical course is provided jointly by my Department, which provides a maintenance loan at a reduced level, and the Department of Health, which currently provides support for tuition fees and NHS bursaries.

Overseas Trade: Australasia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the primary *(a)* imported and *(b)* exported goods and services are between the UK and (i) Australia and (ii) New Zealand. [53912]

Mr Prisk: According to HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics, trade in goods in 2010 with Australia and New Zealand included the following commodities, using the 2-digit Standard International Trade Classification.

Australia

	£ million
Goods imports from Australia	
Total	2,174
Coal and coke	403
Beverages	366
Non-ferrous metals	324
Miscellaneous manufactures	165
Non-metallic mineral manufactures	112
Goods exports to Australia	
Total	3,175
Medicinal and pharmaceutical	544
Road vehicles	452
Miscellaneous manufactures	290
Specialised machinery	185
General industrial machinery	152

New Zealand

	£ million
Goods imports from New Zealand	
Total	839
Meat	322
Beverages	152
Non-road transport equipment	66
Vegetables and fruit	47
Textile fibres	23
Goods exports to New Zealand	
Total	319
Road vehicles	57
Miscellaneous manufactures	39
Power generation equipment	37
Specialised machinery	23
Medicinal and pharmaceutical	22

According to the Office for National Statistics Balance of Payments Pink Book, trade in services in 2009 with Australia included the following sectors:

Australia

	£ million
Services imports from Australia	
Total	2,141
Travel	701
Royalties and licence fees	445
Transportation	371
Other business services	321
Financial services	116
Services exports to Australia	
Total	4,111
Transportation	1,334
Travel	827
Financial services	691
Other business services	684
Insurance	215

A breakdown of services trade with New Zealand is not available. Total UK imports of services from New Zealand were worth about £284 million in 2009 and UK exports of services to New Zealand £439 million.

Parental Leave

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions his Department has discussed shared parental leave with the Childhood and Families Taskforce. [53589]

Mr Davey: It is longstanding Government practice not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

Post Offices

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how levels of compensation received by sub-post offices upon being made a Post Office Local will be determined; [53579]

(2) what compensation sub-post offices will receive upon being made a Post Office Local. [53580]

Mr Davey: The level of compensation and financial support for sub post offices converting to the Post Office Local model will be determined by Post Office Ltd who are working closely with the National Federation of SubPostmasters on this as part of the overall planning of the Post Office Local implementation. The details are yet to be decided.

Power Line Technology Devices

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the security of power line technology devices following concerns expressed by GCHQ. [52884]

Mr Prisk: Power line technology (PLT) apparatus is required to comply with the Electro-Magnetic Compatibility Regulations 2006. The Regulations do not set specific levels of interference but set objectives to ensure that properly designed radio systems will operate when other electrical equipment, such as PLT apparatus, is operated. Enforcement is carried out by Office of Communications (OFCOM)

The concerns expressed by Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) you make reference to were contained in a statement that has been withdrawn by GCHQ. Following further investigation, GCHQ have advised this Department that they have concluded that PLT technology is not currently impacting GCHQ's capability. GCHQ and OFCOM are due to meet in mid-May as part of a wider consultative process. I therefore have made no assessment.

Qualifications and Curriculum Framework

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what funding the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency received from his Department for the design and implementation of the Qualifications and Curriculum Framework; [52012]

(2) what estimates his Department made of the cost of designing and implementing the Qualifications and Curriculum Framework prior to commencement on this work. [52013]

Mr Hayes: In November 2008 the then Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills signed off a Final Business Case (FBC) for implementing the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The FBC estimated that the total cost of implementing the QCF over the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period to 30 April was £205 million with the bulk of that cost, £122 million, being borne by awarding organisations and learning providers in the private sector. The remaining £83 million was to come from the public purse and be divided between Ofqual (£14 million), QCA (£13 million), the Learning and Skills Council (£45 million), and the Department and the devolved Administrations (£11 million).

The actual public spend over the CSR has been £61 million. The total funding the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency has received from the Department to implement the QCF is £8.4 million.

Expenditure on the Qualifications and Credit Framework

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
BIS and Das	0.12	0.82	0.61	[1]0.60	2.15
QCDA	2.93	2.96	2.50	[1]0.00	8.39
Ofqual	0.00	0.00	5.50	[1]7.00	12.50
LSC/ SFA	0.00	3.64	11.00	[1]19.00	33.64
LSIS	0.00	0.00	2.43	[1]1.00	3.43
UKCES	0.00	0.00	0.20	[1]0.50	0.70
	3.05	7.42	22.24	[1]28.10	60.81

[1] Estimated expenditure

Red Tape Challenge

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how the default presumption that burdensome regulations will be removed under the Red Tape Challenge will apply in the case where *(a)* some respondents to the Red Tape Challenge state that regulations are burdensome and should be removed or lessened and an equal or greater number of respondents state that the same regulations should be retained or strengthened and *(b)* there are no complaints about a regulation listed as part of the Red Tape Challenge; and if he will make a statement. [54117]

Mr Prisk: The Red Tape Challenge aims to remove or simplify regulations which impose unnecessary burdens on businesses, members of the public and voluntary organisations. Ministers will have the opportunity to justify which regulations they want to keep. The comments from the website wilt inform these decisions.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the principal differences in function are between regional development agencies and local enterprise partnerships. [51501]

Mr Prisk: The purposes of the regional development agencies (RDAs) are set out in part 1, section 4 (a-e) of the RDA Act 1998.

Local enterprise partnerships are locally developed by business and civic leaders who are responsible for setting their own priorities. The partnerships' key focus is to address the barriers to local growth.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consultation process was undertaken prior to the decision to abolish regional development agencies. [54667]

Mr Prisk: The Conservative and Liberal Democrat manifestos set out the intention to reform the delivery of economic development in England, following which the decision to abolish the regional development agencies (RDAs) was included in the coalition agreement. No formal consultation process was therefore undertaken prior to the decision to abolish the RDAs.

Regional Growth Fund

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria he has set for the assessment of projects in round 2 of the regional growth fund. [54118]

Mr Prisk: The criteria for the second round for assessing projects are the same as the first round. To qualify for support from the Regional Growth Fund, projects should demonstrate that they:

create additional sustainable private sector growth;

rebalance the economy in those areas currently dependent on the public sector;

would not otherwise go ahead without support from the Regional Growth Fund;

offer value for money, and

be state aid compliant.

Skills Funding Agency: Manpower

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff were employed by the Skills Funding Agency in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* April 2011; and what his most recent estimate is of the numbers which will be employed by that agency in (i) April 2012, (ii) April 2013 and (iii) April 2014. [54385]

Mr Hayes: The number of staff employed by the Skills Funding Agency in:

April 2010 was 1,904 headcount (full-time equivalent 1846.82);

April 2011 was 1,649 headcount (full-time equivalent 1601.69).

The agency's most recent estimate of the numbers which will be employed by that agency in:

April 2012 is 1,264 posts (headcount may be higher if there are employees job sharing or working part-time);

April 2013 is 1,249 posts (headcount may be higher if there are employees job sharing or working part-time);

April 2014 is 1,249 posts (headcount may be higher if there are employees job sharing or working part-time).

Small Businesses: Finance

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on small businesses of changes in levels of lending charges by banks. [54277]

Mr Prisk: The Government are committed to ensuring that viable small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) are able to access the finance they need, which includes ensuring access to bank finance, equity finance and other sources of finance.

Data collected from the four main banks, which is published and analysed on a quarterly basis by the Bank of England in its Trends in Lending publication, show that despite increase in bank margins, the overall cost of finance remains on average lower than in 2007 due to falls in the base rate. Average margins on variable rate finance have continued fluctuating over the last six months; they are currently higher in February than in the same month in 2008 for both the small and medium segments of SMEs.

Social Services: Regulation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 2.214 of "The Plan for Growth", which regulations he has identified as having a disproportionate effect on micro-enterprises in the social care sector. [52484]

Mr Prisk: As part of the Growth Review, National Association of Adult Placement Services, the national network for small community service providers, raised the following key regulatory barriers to growth, which they considered to have impacted upon their membership of social care micro-enterprises, disproportionately:

Food Standards Regulations

Private Hire Vehicle Licensing

Criminal Records Bureau Checks

Employment and Taxation Duties

Further details of the actions underway to address these barriers are set out in "The Plan for Growth" see:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukecon_growth_index.htm

Supermarkets: Competition

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the timetable for establishing a groceries code adjudicator. [53920]

Mr Davey: The Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill will be published for pre-legislative scrutiny shortly.

Supply Chain Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to stimulate the use of supply chain finance. [52824]

Mr Prisk: This Department is committed to improving the diversity of finance sources available to business. Supply chain finance was identified as a potentially valuable source of finance for some businesses in the business finance green paper Financing a Private Sector Recovery (published July 2010) and the "Government response Financing Business Growth" (published October 2010).

As set out in "The Plan for Growth", published alongside the Budget in March 2011, we are working with mid-cap and larger businesses and industry bodies to increase awareness and understanding of how supply chain finance could benefit private sector supply chains.

In the public sector, Government are assessing current pilot schemes to learn lessons and consider the potential for wider public sector use of supply chain finance.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the supply chains which would benefit from the use of supply chain finance; and what representations he has received from businesses on supply chain finance. [52825]

Mr Prisk: Supply chain finance offers potential benefit to a wide range of supply chains, including in the public sector, and we are approaching it as a cross-sectoral issue.

Some responses to the business finance green paper "Financing a Private Sector Recovery" (published July 2010) included references to supply chain finance, including responses from providers of supply chain finance tools. Ministers and officials have also discussed supply chain finance with industry representatives, major providers, large corporations who have introduced supply chain finance tools and small suppliers who have accessed supply chain finance.

Technology: Greater London

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Plan for Growth, what assessment he has made of progress in contracting out the marketing of the East London Tech City initiative; and if he will make a statement. [53131]

Mr Prisk: The Government announced last year its blueprint for technology—this includes plans to develop Tech City in East London. The goal is to take Britain on the right path to a high-tech future.

As part of this, UKTI's Tech City Investment Organisation has established a team of entrepreneurs to help East London become a world-leading technology cluster and magnet for technology-led inward investment, talent and innovation.

UK Trade and Investment is leading on the marketing for Tech City with the support of Hill and Knowlton on the international marketing strategy. The Hill and Knowlton team will be based in the heart of Tech City.

Telecommunications

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the future regulation of power line telecommunications devices; and if he will make a statement. [53879]

Mr Prisk: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 449W.

TrustMark Scheme

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of firms accredited by the TrustMark scheme; and if he will make a statement. [53973]

Mr Prisk: I understand there are currently 11,864 firms registered as TrustMark members ranging in size from small businesses to major companies. As some of these firms are registered for more than one trade, the number of trades registered with TrustMark (2005) Ltd currently stands at 17,499.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on expanding the number of scheme operators under the TrustMark scheme; and if he will make a statement. [53974]

Mr Prisk: The operation of the TrustMark scheme and the recruitment of scheme operators is a matter for TrustMark (2005) Ltd. At the Department's regular meetings with the chief executive of TrustMark (2005) Ltd the Department is kept informed about the number of TrustMark scheme operators.

Working Hours: Doctors

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the future implementation of the European Working Time Directive for *(a)* hospital doctors and *(b)* acute medical staff. [54453]

Mr Davey: I and my officials work very closely with the Department of Health on the application of the Working Time Directive to the UK Healthcare sector, meeting as appropriate. This directive is once again being considered by the European Commission and both Departments agree that we should pursue discussions in Europe with the intention of maintaining the individual's right to opt-out of the 48 hour working week while seeking greater flexibility particularly in the areas of on-call time and compensatory rest. This strategy is in-keeping with the commitment in the coalition agreement to work to limit the application of the Working Time Directive.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 11 May 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of the budgets of the Law Officers' Departments he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54574]

The Solicitor-General: Pensions for staff in the Law Officers' Departments are provided through the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS), which is a central arrangement covering Civil Service Departments.

In 2010-11 approximately 8.8% of total operating costs for the Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate were attributable to pension payments. For future planning purposes, it is currently assumed that the proportion of permanent staff costs attributable to pensions will remain the same, although it is recognised that an increase in staff pension contributions is under consideration.

As a proportion of the Crown Prosecution Service budget, payments to the PCSPS for the four years to 2014-15 are estimated to be around 8% per year.

As a proportion of the Serious Fraud Office budget, payments to the PCSPS for the four years to 2014-15 are estimated to be between 5% to 6% per year.

It is not possible to provide a comparable figure for periods beyond this as the departmental budgets are set for four years (to 2014-15) only. The budgets for the subsequent period will be set as part of the next spending review.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are deployed in *(a)* India, *(b)* China, *(c)* the US, *(d)* Russia, *(e)* France and *(f)* Germany; and at what cost to his Department in the most recent period for which figures are available. [54518]

Nick Harvey: This information is contained in Tri Service Publication 10, UK Regular Forces Stationed Location (TSP 10); A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. Copies of TSP 10 are also available at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=100&pubType=0&date=2011-02-10&disText=01%20Jan%202011&from=historic&topDate=2011-02-10&PublishTime=09:30:00

Figures for 1 April 2011 should be available on the website by 12 May 2011 as per the quarterly update of the publication.

The costs for these personnel are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on advertising campaigns in each form of media to recruit service personnel in each month since the date of the strategic defence and security review. [54773]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is presented in the following table:

£

	Digital	*TV and video on demand*	*Radio*	*Cinema*
October 2010	—	—	—	—
November 2010	140,000	—	—	—
December 2010	100,000	—	—	61,000
January 2011	281,000	704,000	—	122,000
February 2011	356,000	252,500	—	182,000
March 2011	[1]675,000	777,000	331,000	61,000
April 2011	—	848,000	100,000	—

[1] This includes some £475,000 spent on the RN recruitment campaign spread over March and April 2011 but which has been placed against March 2011 as it cannot readily be split.

The armed forces depend on high-quality young people wanting to join the services for rewarding and exciting careers. Despite the reduction in the overall numbers of service personnel, the armed forces are still recruiting and training to replace those personnel who leave the services at the end of their contracts.

France: Military Alliances

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* practicability, *(b)* desirability, *(c)* cost-effectiveness and *(d)* effect on Anglo-American military relations of the creation of a joint Anglo-French nuclear deterrent. [53700]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The UK's independent nuclear deterrent is the ultimate guarantee of our national security. We do not think that a joint UK-France nuclear deterrent would be feasible or desirable and it has not been considered.

We continue to enjoy excellent co-operation with the US and France on nuclear issues, including, in the case of France, under the treaty signed on 2 November 2010. I discussed these and other issues with my French counterpart on 9 May.

HMS Albion

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the running cost of HMS Albion was in each of the last five years; [53770]

(2) what arrangements are in place for the reactivation at short notice of HMS Albion once it has been placed in extended readiness; and if he will estimate the cost of any such reactivation; [53818]

(3) what plans he has to place HMS Albion into extended readiness; and if he will estimate the running cost in its first year in extended readiness. [53819]

Nick Harvey: The information requested in respect of the running cost of HMS Albion is provided in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2010-11	20.958
2009-10	22.255
2008-09	38.659
2007-08	17.711

These costs include: maintenance, ships manpower, general stores, minor equipment stores; port visits; satellite communications and fuel. Financial data prior to financial year 2007-08 is not available.

As the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced in the House on 15 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 102WS, following the strategic defence and security review, one of our two Landing Platforms Docks will in future be placed at extended readiness while the other is held at high readiness for operations. Our current plan is that HMS Albion will be placed at extended readiness later this year. It will cost approximately £2.5 million to place her into extended readiness and running costs while in extended readiness are estimated to be £300,000 per annum.

We have no plans to reactivate HMS Albion early and therefore no estimation has been made of the cost of such reactivation.

HMS Liverpool

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution HMS Liverpool has made to Operation Ellamy; and if he will make a statement. [54992]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 10 May 2011]*: HMS Liverpool has been operating as part of the NATO Operation Unified Protector, which is implementing the UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973. HMS Liverpool has been taking part in operations aimed at protecting civilians and civilian populated areas in Libya and assisting with the enforcement of the UN arms embargo.

HMS Ocean

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of HMS Ocean after HMS Illustrious returns to service. [54984]

Nick Harvey: On current plans, HMS Ocean will be placed at low readiness in 2012 once HMS Illustrious has been returned to a fully operational state. She will then enter a period of refit before returning to high readiness in 2014 when HMS Illustrious will be finally withdrawn from service.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average weekly cost of the contribution of each of the armed forces to military operations in Libya has been since the commencement of operations. [54503]

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department has spent on average on each day of operations over Libya; [54514]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his Department's contribution towards the no-fly zone in Libya. [54516]

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of military operations in Libya since March 2011; what proportion of such expenditure has been allocated to *(a)* NATO and *(b)* UK operations; and from which of his Department's budgets such expenditure has been drawn. [55019]

Dr Fox: It is too early to give a robust estimate of the costs of the operations in Libya, but we expect they should be modest compared with other operations such as Afghanistan. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made clear the additional costs of operations in Libya will be fully met from the reserve.

Navy: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any members of the ships' companies of *(a)* HMS Albion, *(b)* HMS Ocean and *(c)* HMS Liverpool are to be made redundant following their return from UK operations in the Mediterranean and the middle east. [54983]

Mr Robathan: HMS Liverpool is on operations. HMS Albion and HMS Ocean are currently not on operations but on a training exercise.

If any members of the ships' companies meet the criteria for redundancy, as published on 4 April 2011, they would be eligible for selection. If selected they will be notified on 30 September 2011.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will re-open the strategic defence and security review in response to recent developments in North Africa and the Middle East. [54142]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 5 May 2011]*: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 949W, to the hon. Member for Wyre and Preston North (Mr Wallace).

Syria: Iran

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the activities of Iranian troops in Syria. [54030]

Dr Fox: None.

Trident

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what reports he has received on the role of *(a)* the British American Security Information Council, *(b)* the Ploughshares Fund and *(c)* the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in promoting opposition to the continuation of the UK's independent nuclear deterrent; and if he will make a statement; [53698]

(2) what assessment he has made of the aims of *(a)* the British American Security Information Council, *(b)* the Ploughshares Fund and *(c)* the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in the sponsoring of a Trident Commission; and what influence he expects the conclusions of that commission to have on Government policy. [53699]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* The Trident Commission, established by the British American Security Information Council, is only the most recent of a number of NGO-sponsored studies into this important issue. As with the others, the Government will look at its findings when they are published.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* consequences of and *(b)* risks entailed by any move away from the policy of continuous at-sea nuclear deterrence; and if he will make a statement. [53701]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Prime Minister on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 801, and to my own, more recent remarks on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 9.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on the *(a)* retention and *(b)* full replacement of the Trident independent nuclear deterrent. [53702]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* The Government have made clear in both the coalition agreement and the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) that they are committed to maintaining and renewing the UK's independent nuclear deterrent. The SDSR made it clear that this is intended to be through the continuity of a submarine-based ballistic missile system. As set out in the coalition agreement the Liberal Democrats will continue to make the case for alternatives.

TRANSPORT

Cycling

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which bodies will be responsible for the work undertaken by Cycling England following its closure; and if he will make a statement. [53776]

Norman Baker: Cycling England ceased to exist after 31 March 2011 and the promotion of cycling now falls to the Department for Transport and local authorities. I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 98W, for further information.

Large Goods Vehicle Drivers: Working Hours

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers' hours offences were detected in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what proportion of such offences were committed by drivers of foreign registered heavy goods vehicles. [53203]

Mike Penning: In 2008, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency issued 19,284 prohibitions to heavy goods vehicles for drivers' hours offences (51% to drivers of foreign registered heavy goods vehicles). In 2009 this dropped slightly to 19,186 (58% to drivers of foreign registered heavy goods vehicles). In 2010 this rose again to 22,358 (52% to drivers of foreign registered heavy goods vehicles).

Roads: Accidents

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured as a result of road accidents in which a blind spot of a vehicle was found to be the primary cause in each of the last five years. [52661]

Mike Penning: It is not possible to identify accidents where the blind spot of a vehicle caused an accident.

However, the following table shows, for accidents where "vehicle blind spot" was a reported contributory factor, the number of casualties who were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in each of the last five years:

		Casualties
	(a) Killed	*(b) Injured*
2005	22	2,079
2006	25	2,102
2007	27	2,079
2008	25	1,908
2009	22	2,081

Note:
Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries attributable to vehicle blind spots. [52665]

Mike Penning: European legislation came into effect in January 2007 requiring all new goods vehicles above 3.5 tonnes gross mass to be fitted with an enhanced "wide-angle" mirror on both sides and an enhanced "close proximity" mirror on the passenger side of the cab. For new vehicles over 7.5 tonnes gross mass a "front" mirror above the windscreen is also required. Vehicles where the "close proximity" and "front" mirrors cannot be fitted over 2 metres from the ground are exempt.

Further European legislation came into effect in March 2009 that requires existing goods vehicles above 3.5 tonnes gross mass first registered from January 2000, to be retro-fitted with improved mirrors on the passenger side, to provide a similar field of view to that required for new vehicles. This measure applies to all member states of the EU.

The Department for Transport is completing research investigating whether more could be done to reduce vehicle blind spots. This may lead to further requirements for new vehicles in the future.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of drivers involved in *(a)* fatal accidents and *(b)* serious non-fatal accidents did not have (i) valid motor insurance and (ii) a valid MOT test certificate in each of the last three years. [53767]

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving drivers who did not have motoring insurance resulted in fatalities in the last three years. [53799]

Mike Penning: The information requested is not held by the Department for Transport. However, the Motor Insurance Bureau (MIB) made a press release on 22 July 2010 in which they state:

> "There are 23,000 people injured and 160 killed every year by uninsured drivers".

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Health on any potential effect on the number of casualties requiring treatment of his proposed changes to *(a)* speed limit enforcement and *(b)* regulations relating to the MOT vehicle test. [53782]

Mike Penning: I am not introducing changes to speed limit enforcement. These are matters for local police forces.

I expect to make an announcement soon about the timing and scope of the MOT test review. The scope will include, but not be limited to, a review of MOT test frequency. I have no preconceptions about the outcome of a review; the aim will be to strike the right balance between vehicle safety and the burden imposed on motorists by MOT test requirements. There will be an opportunity for anyone with an interest to contribute to the debate.

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road traffic accidents involving drivers who did not have a driving licence in the last three years involved drivers who had already been convicted of a motoring offence; [53794]

(2) how many road traffic accidents involving drivers who did not have a driving licence there were in the last three years; [53795]

(3) how many road traffic accidents involving drivers who did not have a valid motoring insurance in the last three years involved drivers who had already been convicted of a motoring offence; [53796]

(4) how many road traffic accidents involving drivers who did not have a driving licence resulted in fatalities in the last three years; [53797]

(5) how many road traffic accidents involving drivers who did not have valid motor insurance there were in the last three years. [53798]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* The information requested is not held by the Department for Transport. However, the Motor Insurance Bureau (MIB) made a press release on the 22 July, 2010 in which they state:

> "There are 23,000 people injured and 160 killed every year by uninsured drivers".

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents were reported on *(a)* the A2 in Bexley borough, *(b)* the A20 in Bexley borough, *(c)* Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, *(d)* Okehampton Crescent, Welling, *(e)* Gravel Hill, Bexley, *(f)* Upper Wickham Lane, Welling, *(g)* Knee Hill, Abbey Wood, *(h)* Park View Road, Bexleyheath, *(i)* Broadway, Bexleyheath, *(j)* Avenue Road, Bexleyheath, *(k)* Pickford Lane, Bexleyheath, *(l)* Long Lane, Bexleyheath, *(m)* Colyers Lane, Erith, *(n)* Thames Road, Crayford, *(o)* North End Road, Erith and *(p)* Erith Road, Bexleyheath in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [54846]

Mike Penning: The information requested is given in the following table covering reported personal injury road accidents only. Data from 2010 will be available in late June 2011.

Reported personal injury road accidents on selected roads: 2009

	Road name	*Number of accidents*
(a)	A2 in Bexley Borough	23
(b)	A20 in Bexley Borough	17
(c)	Brampton Road, Bexleyheath	9
(d)	Okehampton Crescent, Welling	2
(e)	Gravel Hill, Bexley	2
(f)	Upper Wickham Lane, Welling	13
(g)	Knee Hill, Abbey Wood	7
(h)	Park View Road, Bexleyheath	7
(i)	Broadway, Bexleyheath	14
(j), *(k)*	Avenue Road and Pickford Lane, Bexleyheath[1]	10
(l)	Long Lane, Bexleyheath	3
(m)	Colyers Lane, Erith	9
(n)	Thames Road, Crayford	10
(o)	North End Road, Erith	8
(p)	Erith Road, Bexleyheath	14

[1] It is not possible to distinguish between Avenue Road and Pickford Lane

Source:

Transport for London

Roads: Finance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the contribution by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 144WH, on motor sport (public highways), what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of public funds spent on roads that is raised from general taxation. [53989]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

Funding for roads comes from a number of different sources not just general taxation. As well as funding from the Treasury raised from taxation, the DfT has a number of income streams such as from tolls and the European Union. The DfT does not attribute specific revenue streams to the Highways Agency. Similarly local authorities have a number of revenue streams and it is not possible to say which of these they use to fund their road networks alongside the funding they receive from central Government.

Public Expenditure Statistics and Analysis sets out how much is spent on national and local roads:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_2010_chapter5.pdf

Roads: Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress his Department has made in developing a new road safety framework; and when he expects that framework to be published. [54943]

Mike Penning: The Department has today published its Strategic Framework for Road Safety.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures his Department plans to use to assess performance against its road safety strategy. [54949]

Mike Penning: The Department has today published a Road Safety Outcomes Framework, as a part of its Strategic Framework for Road Safety, that it will use to assess progress in this area.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to set targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries from road crashes following the expiry of the Road Safety Strategy in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [54950]

Mike Penning: The Government's approach to road safety is set out in the Strategic Framework for Road Safety, published today.

Speed Limits

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministerial colleagues had with representatives of (i) road safety and (ii) other organisations before issuing the new police framework for dealing with drivers exceeding speed limits. [53780]

Mike Penning: I have not issued or developed the new police framework for dealing with drivers exceeding speed limits. The advice to police forces about the use of education as an alternative to prosecution in some cases has been developed and issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Transport for London: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made by the Independent Investment Programme Advisory Group in assessing the economy and efficiency of Transport for London's investment programme. [54272]

Mrs Villiers: The Independent Investment Programme Advisory Group (IIPAG) began its work in May 2010 and its remit was expanded as part of the recent spending review in October 2010. The IIPAG plans to report on and publish the overall findings of its first year's work this summer. This will include the first full results from its newly-acquired benchmarking role.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Human Rights: Export Controls

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the consideration given to human rights concerns in the processing of applications for export control licences. [54826]

Alistair Burt: Human Rights concerns are considered in any Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice we give to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) concerning export licence applications. In response to events in the Middle East and North Africa, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) commissioned a review of Government policy and practice with regard to the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in particular crowd control goods. The FCO is leading this internal review in close consultation with BIS and the Ministry of Defence.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries participating in the coalition to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1973 *(a)* are and *(b)* are not contributing to the armed forces in and over Libya. [53654]

Alistair Burt: 18 nations are contributing aircraft or maritime assets to the region under UN Security Council Resolution 1973: UK, US, France, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Norway, Netherlands, Canada, Qatar, Turkey, Greece, United Arab Emirates, Sweden, Jordan, Bulgaria, Romania. In total, 34 nations are either providing or offering various kinds of support including military, allowing overflights, logistical or financial support and humanitarian relief.

Libya: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the level of UK diplomatic representation is to the Transitional Council of Libya in Benghazi; what roles such representatives carry out; and what estimate he has made to the cost of such representation in the latest period for which figures are available. [55012]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs appointed Christopher Prentice as his Special Representative in Benghazi in early March 2011. John Jenkins will replace Christopher Prentice in Benghazi shortly. The Special Representative leads a team of diplomats, development and stabilisation advisers, defence attaches and military mentors. Their role is to monitor developments in the East of Libya and to provide advice and assistance to ensure that the Interim Transitional National Council is able to protect and support the population living in areas under its control. Other governments and the United Nations maintain similar teams in Benghazi. We work closely with them. The cost of maintaining the team in Benghazi for their first full month was approximately £400,000.

Osama bin Laden

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on the source of funding for the purchase and maintenance of the compound in Abbottabad which housed Osama bin Laden. [54941]

Alistair Burt: It is not our practice to comment on operational matters.

The Government are working hard both at national and international level to counter terrorist financing. Our aim is to deprive terrorists of the financial resources and systems needed for terrorist related activity.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on voter registration amongst displaced civilians in the north of Sri Lanka during recent local elections in that country; and what assessment he has made of such reports. [54700]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Lady to my response to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South (Mr Hancock) of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 618W.

Western Sahara: Self-determination of States

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of *(a)* Morocco, *(b)* Algeria and *(c)* Mauritania on the future status of the Saharwi people; and if he will make a statement. [55016]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Taieb Fassi Fihri, in London on 10 March and discussed a wide range of foreign policy issues.

I also discussed the issue of Western Sahara in my meetings with Fassi Fihri during my visit to Morocco in April 2011.

I visited Algeria in April 2011 where I raised the issue of Western Sahara with the government of Algeria. I reiterated our commitment to the United Nations Security Council position, calling for a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

As Mauritania is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union, officials have regular discussions with the Mauritanian Government about issues of regional stability and integration.

There are no plans to make a statement at this time.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Grants

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated in grants to charities and non-governmental bodies involved in asylum matters in each of the last five years. [54504]

Damian Green: The amount of funding allocated in grants to charities and non-governmental bodies involved in asylum matters for each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The figures for 2010-11 are provisional and unaudited and may be subject to revision as a result of the statutory audit of the UK Border Agency. Some of the Assisted Voluntary Returns schemes whose costs are included in these figures apply to other migrants as well as asylum-seekers.

£

Grant recipients	*Nature of grant/project*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
International Organisation For Migration	Assisted Voluntary Returns	18,888,860	9,679,482	9,980,209	11,229,062	17,314,282
Migrant Helpline	One-Stop Service	263,187	247,574	399,369	388,619	346,360
	Wraparound	3,795,052	3,123,226	913,373	902,553	894,265
	Strategic (formerly Core) funding	867,203	664,752	—	—	—
	Alternatives To Detention	—	—	482,340	—	—
Refugee Action	One-Stop Service	2,576,205	2,693,562	3,038,858	3,145,235	2,936,548
	Wraparound	977,830	622,445	839,485	855,836	805,837
	Strategic (formerly Core) funding	539,981	553,480	—	—	—
	Key Worker Pilot	—	—	—	—	134,590

£

Grant recipients	*Nature of grant/project*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Refugee Arrivals Project	Strategic (formerly Core) funding	369,377	—	—	—	—
	One-Stop Service	368,113	—	—	—	—
Refugee Council	Strategic (formerly Core) funding	2,557,235	2,813,745	1,499,247	1,528,819	1,306,238
	One-Stop Service	3,736,228	4,138,297	5,498,936	5,531,003	5,512,447
	Wraparound	2,533,282	3,171,091	1,977,156	2,006,360	1,522,107
	Children's Panel	—	—	1,331,584	1,097,580	793,479
	Asylum Support Partnership Team	—	—	—	283,252	90,230
	Voluntary Return Project	—	—	56,547	65,000	6,080
	Other	—	—	312,549	—	—
Scottish Refugee Council	One-Stop Service	777,223	795,788	1,050,835	1,075,975	1,050,414
	Wraparound	116,272	315,909	475,758	504,418	454,005
	Strategic (formerly Core) funding	328,129	336,332	155,000	155,000	117,328
Welsh Refugee Council	One-Stop Service	626,475	642,137	839,960	884,415	862,370
	Wraparound	71,868	390,000	431,988	407,010	371,513
	Strategic (formerly Core) funding	205,316	228,307	70,000	68,528	62,020

Note:
Figures for 2010-11 are provisional, unaudited and subject to adjustment. Figures for 2009-10 are derived from the audited accounts of the UK Border Agency. Figures for 2006-09 are derived from the audited accounts of the Home Office.

Business Crime Reduction Initiative

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take further steps to develop the Business Crime Reduction initiative in Huddersfield and Kirklees. [54912]

James Brokenshire: It is for local areas to develop their own business crime reduction partnerships in order to respond to local business crime priorities, engaging where appropriate with other local partnerships such as Community Safety Partnerships and Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The Home Office, through the National Retail Crime Steering Group, are looking to strengthen local partnerships including supporting their development, identifying and tackling barriers to their operation, and defining minimum standards.

Crime: Design

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss with representatives of *(a)* the Design Council and *(b)* other organisations with design expertise the potential of design to reduce the incidence of crime. [54914]

James Brokenshire: As the Government made clear in A New Approach to Fighting Crime (March 2011), we recognise the important role that design has to play in preventing crime and are establishing a new forum for innovation in crime prevention that will bring together experts drawn from science, design, business and industry, policing and law enforcement to identify major opportunities for preventing crime through innovative design, technology and behavioural change.

Greater Manchester

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments her Department and its agencies have made to *(a)* Manchester College, *(b)* Manchester College for Arts and Technology and *(c)* City College, Manchester since 1997; and for what purpose in each case. [54808]

Damian Green: The totals of payments made by the Home Department inclusive of its Executive agencies to *(a)* Manchester College and *(b)* Manchester College for Arts and Technology since 2004 are as follows:

£

FY	*(a) Manchester College*	*(b) Manchester College for Arts and Technology*
2004-05	10,817	0
2005-06	17,470	0
2006-07	13,130	0
2007-08	12,463	3,819
2008-09	14,102	0
2009-10	42,350	0
2010-11	37,576	0

The Department has not made payments to *(c)* City College, Manchester in the period from 2004.

Information on any payments to the colleges prior to 2004 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The purpose of the payments in each case was for tuition, training or examination fees for Home Office staff. In the case of *(a)* for Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development fees and *(b)* for fees for the Certificate in Training Practice under the Qualifications and Curriculum Framework.

Human Trafficking

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of human trafficking for sexual purposes were detected in each of the last three years; from which countries the persons had been trafficked; and how many prosecutions resulting in a conviction there were as a result. [53453]

Damian Green: The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) started on the 1 April 2009 and data are only available from this date onwards.

At 3 May 2011 the number of decisions relating to referrals for human trafficking for sexual exploitation was as follows:

Period	*Potential victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation (reasonable grounds decision)*	*Confirmed victims of human trafficking (positive conclusive decisions)*
2010-11	169	72
2009-10	187	114

The number of potential victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation that have been referred to the NRM since April 2009 broken down by nationality is as follows:

	2009-10		*2010-11*	
	Reasonable grounds: Potential victims of human trafficking	*Of which the following have positive conclusive decisions: Victims of human trafficking*	*Reasonable grounds: Potential victims of human trafficking*	*Of which the following have positive conclusive decisions: Victims of human trafficking*
Albania	11	9	7	2
Angola	2	—	—	—
Bangladesh	2	2	1	—
Belarus	1	1	—	—
Bolivia	—	—	1	1
Brazil	2	2	—	—
Burundi	1	1	—	—
Cambodia	—	—	1	1
Cameroon	6	6	2	—
Chile	1	1	—	—
China	34	12	11	2
Czech Republic	2	2	1	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	—	—	1	1
Eritrea	—	—	1	—
Gambia	—	—	3	—
Georgia	—	—	1	—
Ghana	1	1	6	1
Guinea	1	—	2	1
Hungary	—	—	3	3
India	1	—	1	1
Iran	—	—	1	1
Ivory Coast	1	1	—	—
Kazakhstan	1	—	—	
Kenya	2	—	7	3
Kosovo	—	—	1	1
Latvia	—	—	2	2
Liberia	2	2	—	—
Lithuania	3	3	8	6
Malawi	—	—	1	1
Moldova	1	1	1	1
Nigeria	25	13	25	4
Pakistan	2	—	1	—
Poland	3	1	2	1
Romania	12	9	10	9
Russia	1	—	2	—
Senegal	2	1	3	—
Serbia	—	—	1	—
Sierra Leone	11	6	7	3
Slovakia	2	1	2	—
Somalia	1	—	4	2
South Africa	7	5	1	1
Tajikistan	—	—	1	—
Thailand	2	—	4	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	—	—
Uganda	5	1	14	8
UK	30	29	12	10
Ukraine	—	—	1	—
Vietnam	2	—	14	4
Zambia	1	1	1	—
Zimbabwe	5	2	1	—
Grand total	187	114	169	72

Figures from the UK Human Trafficking Centre for convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation are set out in the following table. These figures cover the period up to the end of January 2011.

The figures do not include a number of trafficking cases still pending.

	Convictions including trafficking offences (and in some cases additional offences)	*Convictions not for trafficking but related to the original trafficking offence*
2008	[1]34	34
2009	33	24
2010	17	16
2011	2	2

[1] Three of these convictions were for conspiracy to traffick

Lord Wasserman

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of each submission made to her by Lord Wasserman in his capacity as adviser on policy and criminal parties; [52342]

(2) what the terms of reference are for the work of Lord Wasserman in her Department; [52343]

(3) what meetings Ministers in her Department have had with Lord Wasserman since his appointment; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting; [52344]

(4) what written correspondence her Department has received from *(a)* Lord Wasserman and *(b)* the Gordon Wasserman Group since his appointment; on what date each items was received; and if she will publish each item of correspondence. [52352]

Nick Herbert: Lord Wasserman is not employed by the Home Office and is appointed in an unpaid capacity. He reports directly to Ministers and advises on crime, policing and criminal justice matters. Lord Wasserman has regular meetings with Ministers and officials in his capacity as advisor in order to help formulate and shape Government policy. Any documentation arising out of this would be for that purpose, in line with his role.

Prince William: Marriage

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* funding and *(b)* resources her Department has allocated for security at the Royal wedding. [52739]

Nick Herbert: Funding and resources for security at the royal wedding were met from Metropolitan Police Service budgets. The costings of policing the event are not available at present and will be released by the Metropolitan Police Service in due course.

Police: Assaults

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days sickness after an assault were taken by police officers in each police force in England and Wales in each year since 1997; and what the *(a)* average number of days lost per police officer following an assault and *(b)* cost was to each such force in each such year. [53435]

Nick Herbert: The data provided here are a supplementary series collected on behalf and released with the approval of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). These data are normally used for inspection purposes only.

It is therefore important to note that these provisional data have not undergone the usual data quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

The requested data have been collected since 2002-03 and are given in the table.

For parts *(a)* and *(b)*, the requested information is not collected centrally.

Number of police officer working days lost due to assaults[1]: 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	687	793	464	*	21	566	751	*
Bedfordshire	213	387	112	184	178	219	62	52
Cambridgeshire	65	220	194	284	62	120	25	196
Cheshire	431	100	755	575	112	75	112	215
Cleveland	*	*	*	*	*	77	108	68
Cumbria	11	11	46	150	*	*	341	570
Derbyshire	590	906	262	351	236	143	281	374
Devon and Cornwall	655	324	136	990	334	188	31	230
Dorset	81	73	*	*	*	*	*	*
Durham	241	169	101	28	*	138	18	64
Dyfed-Powys	*	*	274	93	97	154	161	81
Essex	478	294	305	301	248	252	189	397
Gloucestershire	115	244	182	199	165	47	16	244
Greater Manchester	*	*	1,702	1,127	94	832	2,074	*
Gwent	175	304	426	417	*	122	*	157
Hampshire	919	733	278	302	252	191	*	*
Hertfordshire	433	328	134	85	186	*	*	*
Humberside	385	390	133	156	*	*	126	*
Kent	433	638	412	437	748	431	400	594
Lancashire	2,484	983	1,330	1,095	603	596	472	579
Leicestershire	*	*	*	193	274	*	177	97
Lincolnshire	201	*	95	88	211	344	233	166
London, City of	48	98	44	43	13	2	44	4
Merseyside	267	143	195	184	0	407	534	411
Metropolitan Police	*	5,043	3,401	18,577	7,647	5,848	6,388	5,581
Norfolk	3	84	272	41	67	162	65	155
Northamptonshire	54	4	20	4	29	6	20	25
Northumbria	578	664	368	290	905	1,075	330	2,039

Number of police officer working days lost due to assaults[1]: 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
North Wales	*	*	169	158	323	133	*	53
North Yorkshire	*	*	102	*	137	*	*	*
Nottinghamshire	228	*	303	145	*	179	193	299
South Wales	576	637	*	*	*	*	87	216
South Yorkshire	*	249	183	160	104	69	209	237
Staffordshire	435	154	446	285	299	174	115	186
Suffolk	277	67	26	5	213	208	240	210
Surrey	469	525	98	32	20	69	14	154
Sussex	342	504	544	334	109	276	329	99
Thames Valley	48	312	159	*	*	*	168	*
Warwickshire	30	39	8	63	715	24	29	60
West Mercia	251	290	592	467	446	354	322	395
West Midlands	2,318	*	1,502	1,313	1,419	1,166	1,200	1,198
West Yorkshire	1,296	2,025	1,383	974	725	691	1,048	635
Wiltshire	37	18	152	37	*	*	*	28

* = Data not available. Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

[1] Provisional data taken from a supplementary series collected on behalf of HMIC and used for inspection purposes only. Data has not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

Police: Manpower

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of police officers left the police service in each police force area *(a)* within two to five years, *(b)* within five to 10 years and *(c)* after more than 10 years of joining in each year since 2007. [53391]

Nick Herbert: Available data relates to 2006-07 to 2009-10 and are given in tables.

The number of transfers between forces has been separately identified as these officers, while leaving individual police forces, have not left the police service.

Number of police officers leaving[1] the force (with the number of transfers separately identified) and the percentage of total police officer leavers that this figure represents, from 2006-07 to 2009-10

	(a) Officers leaving with two to less than five years' service					
	2006-07			*2007-08*		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Avon and Somerset	16	28	17	16	30	14
Bedfordshire	2	12	16	15	26	26
Cambridgeshire	6	10	11	14	20	19
Cheshire[2]	4	11	10	6	13	11
Cleveland	3	8	10	5	8	8
Cumbria	1	9	18	5	9	12
Derbyshire	3	10	7	4	11	9
Devon and Cornwall	3	8	6	5	12	9
Dorset	4	7	6	4	10	10
Durham	1	7	11	4	9	8
Dyfed-Powys	6	6	13	2	7	12
Essex	0	21	7	27	43	17
Gloucestershire	3	9	12	9	12	14
Greater Manchester	32	76	15	30	64	14
Gwent	8	12	18	3	24	27
Hampshire	14	19	9	21	35	14
Hertfordshire	24	45	25	18	29	17
Humberside	6	17	14	6	18	16
Kent	14	27	12	3	12	6
Lancashire	4	20	11	3	20	11
Leicestershire	7	17	12	4	19	14
Lincolnshire	3	10	12	4	5	5
London, City of	6	8	12	3	5	8
Merseyside	4	19	7	10	17	8

Number of police officers leaving[1] the force (with the number of transfers separately identified) and the percentage of total police officer leavers that this figure represents, from 2006-07 to 2009-10

(a) Officers leaving with two to less than five years' service

	2006-07			2007-08		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers' leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Metropolitan Police	86	226	13	60	173	12
Norfolk	2	7	7	5	7	8
Northamptonshire	8	13	13	16	26	25
Northumbria	3	15	8	7	19	9
North Wales	6	13	15	4	10	11
North Yorkshire	6	15	15	5	12	13
Nottinghamshire	7	15	10	12	18	15
South Wales	0	8	4	1	12	8
South Yorkshire	8	18	9	8	25	14
Staffordshire	6	13	11	0	7	7
Suffolk	4	9	17	4	12	22
Surrey	19	32	17	10	17	11
Sussex	12	32	15	38	59	22
Thames Valley	46	77	26	69	92	27
Warwickshire	7	11	15	2	4	7
West Mercia	4	16	11	1	10	8
West Midlands	26	65	13	29	49	10
West Yorkshire	16	38	11	18	50	16
Wiltshire	1	6	10	0	2	3
Total	441	1045	13	510	1,062	13

	2008-09			2009-10		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Avon and Somerset	12	22	13	5	13	8
Bedfordshire	9	14	15	4	7	11
Cambridgeshire	8	16	16	1	4	6
Cheshire[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	1	7	7	6	7	8
Cumbria	3	10	14	0	3	5
Derbyshire	0	12	11	4	14	12
Devon and Cornwall	9	13	8	5	7	6
Dorset	2	4	5	2	5	5
Durham	1	1	1	2	3	4
Dyfed-Powys	3	5	9	1	1	2
Essex	37	49	20	26	40	17
Gloucestershire	6	7	10	4	6	9
Greater Manchester	19	37	10	6	12	4
Gwent	2	11	13	3	6	9
Hampshire	13	25	10	16	23	9
Hertfordshire	17	27	18	10	12	9
Humberside	6	22	16	1	5	5
Kent	12	28	15	4	8	5
Lancashire	5	9	6	9	17	11
Leicestershire	6	11	10	7	13	12
Lincolnshire	2	2	3	7	10	10
London, City of	3	4	6	3	7	13
Merseyside	7	19	7	3	8	3
Metropolitan Police	37	109	8	37	119	9

	2008-09			2009-10		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Norfolk	3	6	5	2	10	12
Northamptonshire	11	17	19	3	6	11
Northumbria	0	16	8	1	8	5
North Wales	2	5	7	2	8	16
North Yorkshire	10	20	19	3	3	3
Nottinghamshire	10	17	12	2	8	7
South Wales	0	7	4	0	5	3
South Yorkshire	11	19	10	1	10	6
Staffordshire	1	6	5	1	3	3
Suffolk	4	8	9	9	14	14
Surrey	7	21	12	6	18	15
Sussex	21	37	16	6	16	9
Thames Valley	50	66	25	21	35	14
Warwickshire	10	13	21	1	4	6
West Mercia	12	23	15	7	14	9
West Midlands	27	49	10	13	31	7
West Yorkshire	18	44	13	7	19	6
Wiltshire	5	13	15	1	5	8
Total	422	851	11	252	567	8

(b) Officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service

	2006-07			2007-08		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with five to less than10 years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service*
Avon and Somerset	7	13	8	12	23	11
Bedfordshire	5	10	14	13	15	15
Cambridgeshire	1	5	6	18	24	23
Cheshire[2]	5	9	8	3	6	5
Cleveland	1	7	9	2	8	8
Cumbria	1	3	6	1	3	4
Derbyshire	3	15	11	0	16	13
Devon and Cornwall	6	13	10	5	13	9
Dorset	4	8	7	2	6	6
Durham	5	8	13	10	17	15
Dyfed-Powys	2	2	4	5	8	14
Essex	0	11	4	28	36	14
Gloucestershire	1	6	8	8	12	14
Greater Manchester	25	69	14	30	80	17
Gwent	2	6	9	0	6	7
Hampshire	8	17	8	13	21	9
Hertfordshire	22	30	17	17	30	18
Humberside	3	7	6	2	10	9
Kent	12	26	11	13	26	13
Lancashire	3	7	4	1	7	4
Leicestershire	7	15	11	10	21	15
Lincolnshire	4	6	7	4	8	9
London, City of	8	10	15	10	19	29
Merseyside	3	11	4	8	16	7
Metropolitan Police	90	167	10	105	204	14
Norfolk	1	4	4	1	3	4
Northamptonshire	6	8	8	9	12	12

(b) Officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service

	2006-07			2007-08		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with five to less than10 years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service*
Northumbria	4	16	9	1	16	7
North Wales	6	11	13	3	7	7
North Yorkshire	2	10	10	4	9	10
Nottinghamshire	11	20	14	13	23	19
South Wales	1	16	8	0	6	4
South Yorkshire	19	26	13	9	16	9
Staffordshire	6	10	8	0	7	7
Suffolk	4	6	11	0	8	15
Surrey	22	37	19	11	24	15
Sussex	12	21	10	29	42	15
Thames Valley	25	38	13	35	48	14
Warwickshire	4	8	11	8	11	19
West Mercia	9	18	12	6	12	10
West Midlands	36	63	13	36	61	13
West Yorkshire	2	12	3	6	20	6
Wiltshire	1	10	16	3	12	17
Total	399	815	10	494	972	12

	2008-09			2009-10		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service*
Avon and Somerset	0	27	16	12	24	15
Bedfordshire	14	18	20	5	8	12
Cambridgeshire	15	19	19	7	14	19
Cheshire[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	5	14	15	3	10	12
Cumbria	2	4	6	0	6	9
Derbyshire	5	15	13	3	11	9
Devon and Cornwall	8	17	11	1	6	5
Dorset	3	7	9	2	5	5
Durham	2	8	9	5	9	11
Dyfed-Powys	2	4	7	4	6	10
Essex	24	36	15	19	24	10
Gloucestershire	5	7	10	4	8	12
Greater Manchester	28	50	13	15	39	12
Gwent	1	10	12	3	5	8
Hampshire	14	22	9	11	23	9
Hertfordshire	35	49	34	14	24	18
Humberside	7	10	7	1	7	7
Kent	18	33	18	7	20	12
Lancashire	3	13	9	2	9	6
Leicestershire	9	21	18	8	14	13
Lincolnshire	3	9	12	4	11	11
London, City of	5	8	11	6	7	13
Merseyside	3	16	6	5	14	6
Metropolitan Police	119	237	16	56	179	14
Norfolk	7	19	17	2	8	10
Northamptonshire	6	10	11	1	6	11
Northumbria	2	14	7	1	8	5
North Wales	2	12	18	0	6	12

	2008-09			2009-10		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with five to less than 10 years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with five to less than 10 years' service*
North Yorkshire	7	13	12	3	15	17
Nottinghamshire	10	22	16	11	21	19
South Wales	0	18	9	0	13	9
South Yorkshire	14	18	10	7	15	10
Staffordshire	4	10	9	4	7	7
Suffolk	3	9	10	3	12	12
Surrey	24	37	22	18	28	24
Sussex	24	33	14	8	13	7
Thames Valley	34	47	18	20	35	14
Warwickshire	4	7	11	5	12	18
West Mercia	7	20	13	9	17	11
West Midlands	30	54	11	15	41	9
West Yorkshire	8	35	11	8	18	6
Wiltshire	1	10	12	4	9	15
Total	517	1,042	14	316	767	11

(c) Officers leaving with 10 years' or more service

	2006-07			2007-08		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with 10 years' or more service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with 10 years' or more years service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service.*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with 10 years' or more service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with 10 years' or more years service*
Avon and Somerset	9	110	68	9	123	59
Bedfordshire	8	40	54	8	45	45
Cambridgeshire	11	63	70	17	54	51
Cheshire[2]	5	78	68	7	91	76
Cleveland	7	46	60	9	73	69
Cumbria	0	31	62	8	54	74
Derbyshire	2	106	76	4	77	62
Devon and Cornwall	9	91	69	10	108	77
Dorset	1	81	73	2	71	72
Durham	3	40	63	6	87	76
Dyfed-Powys	2	37	77	0	40	68
Essex	0	210	74	42	146	58
Gloucestershire	1	57	75	5	59	69
Greater Manchester	30	328	67	25	303	65
Gwent	2	39	60	3	52	58
Hampshire	13	154	73	19	173	71
Hertfordshire	22	76	42	29	88	51
Humberside	5	81	67	2	63	55
Kent	14	162	71	11	156	76
Lancashire	10	134	76	12	141	81
Leicestershire	16	99	71	4	89	64
Lincolnshire	6	58	72	5	74	81
London, City of	10	47	70	12	39	60
Merseyside	3	199	76	4	175	79
Metropolitan Police	95	1,226	72	99	986	70
Norfolk	9	77	77	9	69	82
Northamptonshire	19	70	67	20	52	50
Northumbria	3	140	76	7	172	80
North Wales	2	55	63	2	67	71
North Yorkshire	3	61	59	9	57	62
Nottinghamshire	6	106	72	13	79	64
South Wales	1	155	82	0	125	81

(c) Officers leaving with 10 years' or more service

	2006-07			2007-08		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with 10 years' or more service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with 10 years' or more years service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service.*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with 10 years' or more service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with 10 years' or more years service*
South Yorkshire	9	127	65	13	126	69
Staffordshire	8	87	71	7	84	80
Suffolk	3	36	67	1	28	52
Surrey	23	70	37	13	87	56
Sussex	20	128	59	38	148	54
Thames Valley	16	150	51	27	177	52
Warwickshire	1	49	65	3	30	51
West Mercia	13	99	68	1	88	70
West Midlands	23	325	65	25	309	66
West Yorkshire	15	253	73	7	195	62
Wiltshire	2	40	65	1	51	72
Total	460	5,621	68	548	5,311	66

	2008-09			2009-10		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with 10 years' or more service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with 10 years' or more years service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with 10 years' or more service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with 10 years' or more years service*
Avon and Somerset	4	109	66	6	117	72
Bedfordshire	11	47	52	9	45	69
Cambridgeshire	15	60	59	5	43	60
Cheshire[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	2	67	71	2	67	78
Cumbria	2	53	74	2	49	75
Derbyshire	2	71	63	5	87	72
Devon and Cornwall	11	115	75	7	93	85
Dorset	5	55	72	1	81	83
Durham	9	83	89	3	73	86
Dyfed-Powys	3	44	79	2	46	78
Essex	28	141	57	27	145	63
Gloucestershire	7	52	72	2	48	72
Greater Manchester	20	270	70	13	261	79
Gwent	0	54	63	4	52	81
Hampshire	19	177	73	13	184	75
Hertfordshire	17	56	38	21	75	55
Humberside	4	91	66	3	79	83
Kent	13	122	66	8	129	76
Lancashire	7	117	78	2	125	80
Leicestershire	5	72	63	8	70	65
Lincolnshire	4	64	84	2	72	74
London, City of	20	57	81	9	35	66
Merseyside	10	210	81	10	207	86
Metropolitan Police	63	1,027	71	37	842	66
Norfolk	4	73	66	1	51	61
Northamptonshire	8	52	58	4	36	68
Northumbria	8	151	76	4	135	86
North Wales	1	47	69	1	32	65
North Yorkshire	8	63	59	5	63	72
Nottinghamshire	13	97	69	5	78	70
South Wales	1	165	85	1	126	86
South Yorkshire	13	136	73	10	130	83
Staffordshire	11	85	77	10	95	90
Suffolk	5	61	71	8	56	57
Surrey	21	91	53	7	58	50
Sussex	43	140	60	14	104	57

	2008-09			2009-10		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with 10 years' or more service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with 10 years' or more years service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with 10 years' or more service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with 10 years' or more years service*
Thames Valley	21	127	48	8	166	64
Warwickshire	8	39	64	1	49	75
West Mercia	0	105	68	7	120	76
West Midlands	28	314	67	13	320	74
West Yorkshire	4	212	64	15	236	76
Wiltshire	0	48	56	8	41	69
Total	478	5,220	68	323	4,921	72

[1] Leaving figures include police officers leaving the force within the designated range of years of joining or re-joining the service, due to dismissals (including requirement to resign), voluntary resignations, medical retirements, ordinary retirements.

[2] Data for Cheshire was not available in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Clergy: Gender

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what the ratio of male to female clergy is in the Church of England; and if he will make a statement. [55344]

Tony Baldry: The Church of England has seen a substantial change in the last 10 years to the gender balance of its clergy. The figures from 2009 are the most recent figures available and show a sizeable increase in women clergy when compared to figures from 1994. Similar movement in the gender balance of Anglican Chaplains can also be seen when comparing the figures available from 1998 and 2009.

The following figures collected by the Church of England include all stipendiary clergy, self supporting ministers, Diocesan bishops, Suffragan bishops, Arch-Deacons, Deans and other Cathedral Clergy.

In 1994—90% of clergy were men and 10% were women

In 2009—71% of clergy were men and 29% were women

Chaplains in the Church of England

The following figures collected by the Church of England include all armed forces chaplains, prison chaplains, hospital chaplains, education chaplains and other chaplains in workplace or industrial ministry.

In 1998—85% of Chaplains were men and 15 % were women

In 2009—78% of Chaplains were men and 22% were women

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Schemes

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the sub-contractor business his Department estimates has been awarded to charities and voluntary sector organisations as part of the Work Programme in *(a)* Glasgow North West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow city, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* nationally. [52741]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme competition is still under way with post tender discussions being undertaken with preferred bidders. Contracts have not yet been signed. The information you have requested, therefore, cannot be provided at this time. When contracts have been signed; further information, including details of the prime contractors and their subcontractors will be published on the Contracts Finder website as part of the ongoing commitment to the Transparency agenda.

However, I can tell you that there are 57 third sector organisations within the supply chains of the preferred bidders within the Contract Package Area covering the constituencies you are inquiring about. Nationally there are over 300 first tier third sector organisations. In addition, there are numerous organisations providing ad-hoc support as customer requirements dictate.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each London borough whose primary diagnosis was obesity claimed incapacity benefit in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what proportion of the total expenditure on incapacity benefit in each borough was accounted for by people suffering from obesity in each year; and how much was spent on disability pensions for people diagnosed with obesity in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [53412]

Chris Grayling: Due to the small numbers of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance cases with a main condition of obesity in the London boroughs, it is not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the expenditure on this condition.

Similarly, the disability living allowance figures are derived from a 5% sample, and are subject to sampling variability, so a reliable estimate of expenditure cannot be provided.

The information on how many people in each London borough whose primary diagnosis was obesity claimed incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance in each of the last five years is as follows:

Incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance recipients with a diagnosis of obesity by each London borough

	As at August each year				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
City of London	—	—	—	—	—

Incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance recipients with a diagnosis of obesity by each London borough.

	As at August each year:				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Barking and Dagenham	10	10	10	10	10
Barnet	10	10	10	10	10
Bexley	10	10	10	10	—
Brent	10	10	10	10	10
Bromley	—	10	10	10	10
Camden	20	20	10	20	10
Croydon	20	20	20	20	10
Ealing	20	20	20	20	10
Enfield	10	20	20	20	20
Greenwich	—	10	10	10	10
Hackney	30	20	20	20	20
Hammersmith and Fulham	10	10	10	10	10
Haringey	10	20	20	20	10
Harrow	10	10	10	10	10
Havering	—	—	—	—	—
Hillingdon	10	10	10	10	10
Hounslow	10	20	10	10	10
Islington	10	10	20	20	10
Kensington and Chelsea	10	10	10	10	—
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	—	—	—
Lambeth	20	20	20	20	10
Lewisham	10	10	10	10	10
Merton	—	—	—	—	—
Newham	20	20	20	20	20
Redbridge	10	10	10	—	10
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	10	10	10
Southwark	20	20	20	20	20
Sutton	—	—	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	10	10	20	20	10
Waltham Forest	10	10	10	10	10
Wandsworth	10	10	10	10	10
City of Westminster	20	10	20	10	10

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. To qualify for incapacity benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment: Under the employment and support allowance (ESA) regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the basis of "obesity" would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the personal capability assessment/work capability assessment.
3. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance in October 2008.
4. The Great Britain figure for those claiming ESA with a diagnosis of obesity is 230 therefore analysis by each London borough is not appropriate.
5. '—' denotes nil or negligible.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of how many and what proportion of people eligible for but not receiving *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* jobseeker's allowance and *(d)* council tax benefit are (i) living below the 60 per cent. relative poverty line and (ii) in each income decile. [53414]

Chris Grayling: The latest estimates of unclaimed benefits and take-up rates in Great Britain are available in the National Statistics report Income Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-Up in 2008-09 published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=irb

The total estimated numbers of entitled non-recipients (ENRs) of the income related benefits in question for 2008-09 are shown in the following table. The estimates are presented as ranges to account for uncertainty arising from sampling variation and bias in the data.

Entitled non-recipients

			Thousand
		Lower	*Upper*
(a)	Pension credit	980	1,600
(c)	Jobseekers allowance (income based)	570	940
(d)	Council tax benefit	2,130	2,930

Source:
Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up 2008-09

It is not possible to present estimated numbers of ENRs according to their position in the income distribution since such estimates would not have been corrected for the sampling variation and bias described above. However, we are able to show the percentages of ENRs that fall into different categories.

The following table shows the proportion of ENRs who are in households below 60% of contemporary median income. These analyses have previously been published as National Statistics. Both the after housing cost and before housing cost measures are shown for 2008-09.

			Percentage
Benefit	*(a) Pension credit*	*(c) Jobseekers allowance (income based)*	*(d) Council tax benefit*
Proportion of ENR below 60% median BHC	67	62	58
Proportion of ENR below 60% median AHC	56	73	58

Source:
Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up 2008-09

The following table shows the percentage of ENRs by decile of equivalised households income. Both the after housing cost and before housing cost measures are shown. The table is based on three years' data (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09). Figures may not sum due to rounding.

	Decile:										
	Bottom	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*Top*	*Total*
BHC											
Pension credit	46	25	11	7	5	3	2	1	0	0	100
Jobseekers allowance (income based)	54	10	9	6	5	4	3	3	3	2	100
Council tax benefit	39	25	17	9	5	2	1	1	0	0	100
AHC											
Pension credit	27	24	23	12	5	4	3	1	1	0	100
Jobseekers allowance (income based)	55	14	7	6	4	4	3	3	3	2	100
Council tax benefit	32	21	17	14	9	4	2	1	0	0	100

Source:
Derived from Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up 2008-09 combined with Households Below Average Income 2008-09

There is no estimate available of those who are entitled to but not receiving incapacity benefit and jobseekers allowance (contributions based) because it is not possible to identify cases that meet the conditions from survey data.

Industrial Health and Safety: Chandler's Wharf

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action the Health and Safety Executive has taken following the collapse of a crane at Chandler's Wharf in Liverpool on 6 July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [54913]

Chris Grayling: Inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive have concluded their investigation into the incident and have initiated legal proceedings against two companies, Bowmer and Kirkland Ltd and Bingham Davies Ltd. They are due to appear in court on 19 May 2011.

Jobcentre Plus: Reorganisation

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the future *(a)* relationship and *(b)* status of Jobcentre Plus will be in relation to his Department after the reorganisation of senior management responsibilities within and between his Department and Jobcentre Plus; and what effect the reorganisation will have on (i) co-ordination, (ii) handling of individual constituency queries, (iii) the responsibility of Ministers within his Department and (iv) Jobcentre Plus management decision-making; and if he will make a statement. [54829]

Chris Grayling: The Government's Welfare Reform Programme aims to transform the effectiveness of the regime for helping people find work. The Work Programme will put in place, starting next month, innovative support for the hardest to help, with, payment by results; and the plan for Universal Credit, ensuring work always pays, will bring together provision currently separated between DWP, HMRC and local government; covering both people in and out of work.

At the same time, the resources for the corporate centre of the Department will reduce by 40% over this Parliament.

In this context, the Department is reviewing its structure and senior management responsibilities, to ensure the reform programme and savings are delivered safely. An initial announcement has been made about the roles of the Executive Team, whose members report directly to the Permanent Secretary, which will come into effect on 1 October 2011.

Work is now under way to determine the rest of the organisational design, including the respective responsibilities of senior management of the front line and in the corporate centre. Further details will be announced once the work is further advanced. The Government are, of course, committed to ensuring that constituency queries continue to be handled effectively.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Appeals

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in *(a)* Chesterfield constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* the UK were sanctioned in (i) the last 12 months and (ii) each of the last five years; how many such claimants appealed; and how many such appeals were successful. [52827]

Chris Grayling: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Medical Examinations: Complaints

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints relating to employment and support allowance medical assessments conducted by Atos Healthcare were recorded by his Department in each quarter since October 2008; and what the most common complaints were. [53724]

Chris Grayling: Complaints statistics relating to employment and support allowance assessments are not held at a national level by the Department however the number of complaints received by Atos Healthcare since October 2008 is shown in the following table.

ESA complaints quarter ending:	*Number*
November 2008	0
February 2009	38
May 2009	239
August 2009	562
November 2009	702
February 2010	631
May 2010	754
August 2010	748

ESA complaints quarter ending:	*Number*
November 2010	818
February 2011	554

During the most recent quarter ending February 2011, 118,854 ESA medical assessments were completed and 554 complaints received which equates to 0.47% of all assessments completed.

The most common complaint in the latest quarter relates to the content of the medical assessment—some 229 complaints or 0.19% of all ESA assessments completed. Content of assessment includes such issues as the taking of customer history and the assessment process.

Members: Correspondence

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 August 2010 from a constituent of the hon. Member for Stretford and Urmston, Mr Charlie Donegan. [54388]

Chris Grayling: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on behalf of her constituent on 21 January 2011. A further reply was sent to Mr Donegan on 6 May 2011.

New Enterprise Allowance

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme to be rolled out in Islwyn constituency. [54408]

Chris Grayling: We have begun rolling out the new enterprise allowance and it will be available in Wales from the end of June 2011.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Islwyn constituency who will be eligible for the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme. [54409]

Chris Grayling: Customers are eligible for new enterprise allowance after they have been on jobseeker's allowance for six months or more and until they are referred to the Work programme. In March 2011 there were 260 JSA claimants meeting this eligibility condition in Islwyn.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to extend the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme to groups other than those who have been on jobseekers' allowance for more than six months. [54410]

Chris Grayling: Currently there are no plans to extend the New Enterprise Allowance to other groups however we will continue to monitor the position as rollout progresses.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of new businesses to be created under the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme. [54411]

Chris Grayling: The New Enterprise Allowance is intended to help up to 40,000 unemployed people start up a business by 2013 as part of the Government's plans to promote growth and enterprise.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local entrepreneur mentors are supporting the New Enterprise Allowance in Wales; and whether any minimum level of expertise or qualifications is required to be recognised as a local entrepreneur mentor. [54923]

Chris Grayling: The new enterprise allowance will be available in Wales from the end of June 2011. We are currently inviting applications from organisations interested in delivering the mentoring support element of the new enterprise allowance.

We expect new enterprise allowance mentors to have the business experience and soft skills needed to support our customers to prepare for self employment and develop a viable business plan that demonstrates potential for growth.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the New Enterprise Allowance scheme to be introduced in Aberconwy constituency. [54928]

Chris Grayling: We have begun rolling out the New Enterprise Allowance and it will be available in Wales from the end of June 2011.

Personal Injury: Compensation Recovery Unit

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was recovered by the Compensation Recovery Unit in respect of each type of personal injury claim in each of the last three years; and how many cases this represents for each case type. [54456]

Chris Grayling: The information is in the following tables:

Amount and volume of claims recovered 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

Case type	*Amount recovered (£ million)*	*Volumes*
Clinical Negligence	9.70	983
Employer	81.0	15,541
Motor	37.9	9,140
Other	0.8	141
Public	8.7	2,266
Liability not known	0.05	12

Amount and volume of claims recovered 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Case type	*Amount recovered (£ million)*	*Volumes*
Clinical Negligence	9.6	1,148
Employer	96.5	17,322
Motor	38.3	9,784
Other	0.8	148
Public	9.5	2,469
Liability not known	0.2	18

Amount and volume of claims recovered 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

Case type	*Amount recovered (£ million)*	*Volumes*
Clinical Negligence	11.4	1,188
Employer	75.8	12,016

Amount and volume of claims recovered 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

Case type	*Amount recovered (£ million)*	*Volumes*
Motor	41.1	10,035
Other	0.9	139
Public	10.6	2,603
Liability not known	0.07	15

Notes:

1. The figures represent the total volume of claims for the recovered amount. An individual may have made a claim for more than one case type, for example an individual may have made a claim for both motor and employer liability. This will be recorded as two case types.
2. The breakdown of recoveries and the case types that they represent are not available in the public domain in this format.

Source:

The figures provided are from Shared Services Compensation Recovery Unit computer system and are subject to rounding. The figures are Management Information collected for the purpose of routine administration, and therefore have not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance that is applied to DWP official statistics.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the cap on benefit entitlement on the *(a)* level of child poverty, *(b)* ability of local authorities to carry out their homelessness duties and *(c)* level of additional burdens on local authority child protection functions. [53714]

Maria Miller: Work is for most people the best way out of poverty. The benefit cap will restrict the total amount of welfare a household can receive to broadly the level of the average earned income after tax for working households. By doing this the policy will improve work incentives for those on benefits and sit alongside the other measures announced in the spending review to make the system fair and affordable.

Any measurement of the effect on child poverty will be driven by individual behavioural response to the policy. We are putting in place the Work programme, the biggest single welfare-to-work programme this country has ever seen, which will give unemployed people unprecedented levels of personal support to get them into the workplace. The benefit cap supports our plans to make work pay as when someone in a household enters work and begins to receive working tax credit they will be exempt from the new measure.

The ability of local authorities to carry out their homelessness duties or the level of additional burdens on local authority child protection functions does not form part of the Department's assessment.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of benefit fraud committed in respect of each benefit which was attributable to identity fraud in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [53476]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available for all benefits.

The latest official statistics "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System (April 2009—March 2010)" show that £4 million of jobseeker's allowance expenditure was overpaid, due to identity fraud in that period, (0.1% of expenditure). Figures for income support and pension credit showed nil expenditure loss as a result of identity fraud over that period.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the sums not paid out by his Department for each benefit as a result of detection of benefit fraud in each year since 1997. [53515]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual cases of customer overpayment debt there have been in each year since 2006; what the total monetary value was of customer overpayment debts in this period; what proportion of such debts are over 10 years old; and what the cost of administering such debts has been. [53366]

Chris Grayling: The information is in the following tables:

	New debt caused by customer error or fraud		*Stock of customer error and fraud debt at 31 March*	*Volume of debts>10 yrs old[1] (as a percentage of all debts held)*		*Recovery of debts caused by customer error or fraud*
	Volume	*Value (£ million)*	*£ million*	*Volume*	*Percentage*	*£ million*
2006-07	508,995	402.5	1,602.7	n/a	n/a	162.1
2007-08	492,566	366.9	1,703.4	n/a	n/a	183.4
2008-09	453,503	357.8	1,804.0	252,821	9.1	193.2
2009-10	505,487	386.1	1,885.6	253,830	9.3	205.1
2010-11	617,137	515.8	2,070.9	277,600	10	235.1

	Cost (£ million)[2]	
	Pre-recovery	*Recovery*
2006-07	60	
2007-08	54.2	
2008-09	50.7	
2009-10	14.3	33.3

	Cost (£ million)[2]	
	Pre-recovery	Recovery
2010-11	15.1	32.0

n/a = Not available

[1] Volumes of debts over 10 years old relates to all customer error and fraud debt held on system at 31 March in each year. The percentage figure relates to the proportion of those against all debts held in the debt stock. Data prior to 2008 is not available.

[2] Costs relate to the total cost of the Department's debt recovery organisation, not just that which relates the administration of customer fraud and error debt.

Note:

Costs split between pre-recovery and recovery not available 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Source:

The figures provided are from Shared Services Debt Manager via Business Objects computer system and are subject to rounding. The figures are Management Information (MI) collected for the purpose of routine administration, and therefore have not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance that is applied to DWP official statistics.

In 2010-11 an additional £3.5 million was spent as part of a spend to save initiative to facilitate additional recovery.

Social Security Benefits

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 733W, on social security benefits, how much his Department paid in *(a)* attendance allowance, *(b)* bereavement benefits, *(c)* carer's allowance, *(d)* disability living allowance, *(e)* employment and support allowance, *(f)* incapacity benefit, *(g)* income support, *(h)* jobseeker's allowance, *(i)* pension credit, *(j)* severe disablement allowance and *(k)* winter fuel payments in the last year for which figures are available. [55069]

Chris Grayling: The requested benefit expenditure information was published on the internet on 21 April 2011 and a copy has been placed in the Library.

The information can currently be found at the following internet address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables_budget2010.xls

Unemployment: Young People

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of young people between 16 and 25 years were not in work, training or education in each local authority area in England and Wales in each year since 2007. [53422]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in local authorities (LA) in England from 2007 to 2009, the latest year for which data are available and will be placed in the Libraries of the House. These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey.

Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[2] (CIs), which give an indication of how accurate an estimate is. For example, the confidence interval for England of +/- 0.4% means that the true NEET percentage could lie up to 0.4 percentage points above or below the point estimate (between 14.0% and 14.8%).

[1] Age used is the respondents' academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Confidence intervals quoted are 95% confidence intervals.

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in considering the options for child care support under universal credit, what analysis his Department has undertaken of the potential effects of levels of support on *(a)* lone parents, *(b)* parents of children aged under three years, *(c)* parents of school-age children, *(d)* families with two or more children and *(e)* child care providers. [52510]

Maria Miller: The Government have announced that support for child care costs will be provided in universal credit by an additional element, but said they will take further advice before deciding what rates to set.

We are looking at different options, and have said that we will be discussing them with stakeholders over the coming weeks. The impact on different groups, in terms of levels of child care support and work incentives, and in the context of other provision and support available, will be considered as part of this. We are working closely with the Department for Education to take account of the impact on child care provision of different options.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what IT contracts he has awarded for implementation of universal credit; what the name is of each successful bidder; how many bids his Department received for each such contract; what the monetary value is of each contract; what the expected timescale is for completing the work; and what outputs are expected. [53346]

Chris Grayling: We have obtained Contingency Funding Approval from HM Treasury to progress with design and development work ahead of Royal Assent of the Welfare Reform Bill.

The service providers involved in the IT delivery for Universal Credit are currently: Accenture, Hewlett Packard and BT plus input from Agile specialists Emergn. These contracts have been awarded under existing departmental frameworks for IT Development. These contracts will provide the delivery of the IT components for Universal Credit.

The monetary value of the contracts are commercially restricted under the terms of the framework agreements.

The expected time scale for completion of the IT development is spring 2013 for live pathfinders and autumn 2013 for full availability of Universal Credit, pending consideration of transition models.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how he proposes to monitor the distribution of income within the household following the introduction of universal credit, as proposed in his Department's Equality Impact Assessment of the Welfare Reform Bill: Universal Credit. [54192]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is committed to monitoring and evaluating its policies and universal credit will be no exception—it is considered good practice in informing policy delivery and design.

We are currently considering our approach to monitoring and evaluation of universal credit, including the distribution of income within households, and will consider customer experiences of universal credit and its effects.

The equality impact assessment for the White Paper 'Universal Credit: Welfare that Works' [Cm 7957] and the equality impact assessment published when the Welfare Reform Bill was introduced into Parliament outline a number of sources of evidence that the Department will use to monitor the universal credit. These might include administrative datasets, survey data, qualitative research and feedback, and internal management information. We will also continue to draw upon research conducted by academics and stakeholders.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how he proposes to ensure that notifications of entitlement and awards are clear under universal credit both on initial qualification for universal credit and after the taper has been applied on one occasion or more, as proposed in the Equality Impact Assessment of the Welfare Reform Bill: Universal Credit. [54193]

Chris Grayling: We are committed to involving customers in the design of universal credit. We have already had conversations with them to find out what information they would find helpful and how they would prefer the information to be presented and this feedback will influence the design of notifications, whether on-line or via other channels, to ensure they are easy to understand.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the earnings rules will be for individuals on contributory benefits in a couple entitled to universal credit. [54195]

Chris Grayling: As set out in the White Paper, the earnings rules for universal credit will be based on a single taper to withdraw support as earnings rise and a new approach to earnings disregards. The Government are still considering the level of the taper and disregards but the intention is that there will be only one disregard per couple.

We also stated in the White Paper "Universal Credit: welfare that works" that the earnings rules for contributory jobseeker's allowance and contributory employment and support allowance would be aligned with the universal credit earnings rules. For a couple who are entitled to UC, the effect will be that the universal credit rules will always determine the way that earnings affect the couple's overall entitlement.

Welfare State: Reform

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's impact assessment on conditionality measures in the Welfare Reform Bill, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of proposed conditionality measures on levels of child poverty. [46384]

Maria Miller: For most people, work is the best route out of poverty. We believe that it is important that people who can take up paid employment are given help and encouragement to do so. Conditionality has an important role to play to help prevent parents from becoming distanced from the labour market, and therefore is reducing child poverty levels.

For example, as set out in the recent impact assessment entitled 'Conditionality Measures in the 2011 Welfare Reform Bill', it is estimated that increased conditionality for lone parents with a youngest child aged five and six will result in 20,000 to 25,000 extra lone parents in work, which in turn could help reduce child poverty. Compared to a child of a lone parent who is not working, a child of a lone parent who works part-time is over 2.5 times less likely to be living in poverty. A child of a lone parent who works full-time is over four times less likely to be living in poverty[1].

We have estimated that universal credit will have a substantial positive impact on poverty and could lift as many as 350,000 children out of relative income poverty. This is a combined impact of all measurable universal credit factors, and does not identify the specific impact of the conditionality or sanctions.

[1] Households Below Average Income 2008/09. Comparisons based on 60% of median income Before Housing Costs.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Employment to the Public Bill Committee on the Welfare Reform Bill of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 378, what terms of reference he has set for the consideration by the Social Security Advisory Committee of the provision of free school meals within universal credit; what resources have been allocated to the committee to undertake this work; when he expects the committee to report its findings; whether these findings will be published; whether he plans to seek advice on these findings from the Social Justice Committee; and if he will make a statement. [53824]

Chris Grayling: Ministers will shortly be asking the Social Security Advisory Committee to carry out an independent review of passported benefits and the links with universal credit and we will produce a written ministerial statement with the terms of reference shortly.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arms Trade

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the categories of transfers or sales of arms or components of arms by the Government or its agencies to *(a)* other governments, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* individuals overseas which are not published either on Government websites or on the United Nations or EU arms registers. [52055]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 26 April 2011]:* Transfers or sales of arms by the Government or its agencies to other Governments, organisations or individuals overseas are already published in the Government's Annual Reports on Strategic Export Controls.

Environment Protection: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to promote low carbon alternatives in businesses in Coventry. [54907]

Mr Prisk: UK businesses will lead the way in putting the economy on a low-carbon, resource efficient path. The Government's Roadmap to a Green Economy, to be published later this year, will provide businesses across the UK with the longer-term clarity they have been seeking on how we will help them bring about the transition.

Coventry will be covered by a new Local Enterprise Partnership for Coventry and Warwickshire. Government will share information and work with the Partnership on low carbon opportunities. From October 2012, small businesses will be able to improve the energy efficiency of their properties at no upfront cost through the Government's Green Deal scheme.

Further Education: Manchester

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments his Department and its agencies have made to *(a)* Manchester College, *(b)* Manchester College for Arts and Technology and *(c)* City College, Manchester since 1997; and for what purpose in each case. [54807]

Mr Hayes: Since 2003, the Department and its predecessors have made 24 payments to the Manchester College totalling £83,290. All of these payments related to course fees for various members of staff undertaking formal CIPD qualifications.

No payments have been recorded to Manchester College for Arts and Technology or City College, Manchester.

Figures prior to 2003 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office, UK Space Agency and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond directly to my hon. Friend.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, what payments his Department and its agencies have made to (a) Manchester College, (b) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (c) City College, Manchester since 1997; and for what purpose in each case.

The Insolvency Service, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills made the following payments for member(s) of staff who were training for CIPD Flexible Learning Programmes since 1997.

	£
(a) The Manchester College	
2009/10	5,700
(b) The Manchester College for Arts and Technology	
2007/08	2,643
2008/09	2,800

(c) City College, Manchester—No Payments were made.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 5 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 4 May 2011 reference 2010/5285 to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking what payments his Department and its agencies have had made to (a) Manchester College, (b) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (b) City College, Manchester since 1997; and for what purpose in each case.

The National Measurement Office has not made any payments to the above organisations since 1997.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 9 May 2011:

In response to your Parliamentary Question asking about what payments the Agency has made to: (i) Manchester College, (ii) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (iii) City College, Manchester since 1997 and for what purpose in each case, I wish to inform you that the organisations listed above have now all merged into The Manchester College.

The attached spreadsheet provides a breakdown of all the payments.

College Funding Summary

Revenue

College	*Year*	*Further education*[1]	*Higher education*	*Total*
				£000
The Manchester College	2009/10	149,920	5,917	155,837
	2008/09	118,519	3,751	122,270
City College, Manchester	2007/08[2]	72,716	1,669	74,385
	2006/07	65,776	1,820	67,596
	2005/06	34,941	1,516	36,457
	2004/05	26,494	1,661	28,155
	2003/04	28,486	1,406	29,892
	2002/03	25,755	1,399	27,154
	2001/02	24,218	1,313	25,531
	2000/01	17,372	1,261	18,633
	1999/2000[3]	15,863	0	15,863
	1998/99[3]	14,452	0	14,452
	1997/98	17,770	551	18,321
Manchester College of Arts and Technology	2007/08	40,350	1,826	42,176
	2006/07	35,619	2,337	37,956
	2005/06	34,128	1,270	35,398
	2004/05	32,934	1,205	34,139
	2003/04	30,427	1,115	31,542
	2002/03	26,178	945	27,123
	2001/02	23,276	725	24,001
	2000/01	21,260	650	21,910
	1999/2000[3]	18,603	0	18,603
	1998/99[3]	16,715	0	16,715
	1997/98	16,869	0	16,869

[1] Further education incorporates, Youth, Adult, Employer, OLASS and other funding

[2] Finance record for the college not received. Allocations data used

[3] HE and other departmental funding not separately identified

Source:

College finance records

	Capital	
College	Year	Capital (£000)
The Manchester College	2008/09 to 2009/10	2,021
City College Manchester	2001/02 to 2007/08	6,493
Manchester College of Arts and Technology	2001/02 to 2007/08	10,894

Letter from David Williams, dated 5 May 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking what payments his Department and its agencies have made to (a) Manchester College, (b) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (c) City College, Manchester since 1997; and for what purpose in each case. (54807)

The UK Space Agency has made no payments to Manchester College, Manchester College for Arts and Technology or the City College, Manchester during this period.

Letter from John Alty, dated 6 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 4th May 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The IPO has paid one invoice to Manchester College since 2005 (no earlier information available) for £2850 for the provision of Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) training undertaken in 2009.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 6 May 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 4 May 2011, UIN54807 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has never made any payments to Manchester College, Manchester College for Arts and Technology or City College, Manchester at all.

Marketing: Creative Industries

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support the international marketing and promotion of the creative industries. [54490]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The UK has one of the largest creative sectors in the world, contributing £17.3 billion in exports. UK Trade and Investment, working in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and industry partners will raise awareness of the UK's creative offer and use major showcasing events in the UK and overseas and trade missions to maximise the export and investment potential for this important area of the economy.

Postal Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many pieces of correspondence his Department received *(a)* supporting and *(b)* against privatisation of the Royal Mail in the last 12 months; [55233]

(2) how many pieces of correspondence his Department received *(a)* supporting and *(b)* against post office branch closures in the last 12 months. [55234]

Mr Davey: The Department receives large amounts of correspondence covering a wide range of topics relating to Royal Mail and the Post Office network. Many of these will have expressed views on Royal Mail privatisation or on the future of the Post Office network, but due to the broad nature of much of the correspondence it is not possible to categorise simply as for or against the Government's policy.

Prisoners: Education

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contracts *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies have had with (i) Manchester College, (ii) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (iii) City College, Manchester for the provision of education in prisons since 1997. [54806]

Mr Hayes: Prior to 2005, contracts for the provision of education in prisons were let by Her Majesty's Prison Service, then an Executive Agency of the Home Office. Since 2005, contracts for the provision of education in public sector prisons in England have been let by the Learning and Skills Council and, latterly, the Skills Funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessors have let no contracts to the Manchester College, the Manchester College for Arts and Technology or City College, Manchester for the provision of education in prisons.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office, UK Space Agency and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond directly to my hon. Friend.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what, contracts (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies have had with (i) Manchester College, (ii) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (iii) City College, Manchester for the provision of education in prisons since 1997.

The Insolvency Service, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no contracts with (a) Manchester College, (b) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (c) City College, Manchester for the provision of education in prisons since 1997.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 5 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 4 May 2011 reference 2010/5284 to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking what contracts (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies have had with (i) Manchester College, (ii) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (iii) City College, Manchester for the provision of education in prisons since 1997.

The National Measurement Office has not had any contracts with the above organisations for the provision of education in prisons since 1997.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 6 May 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, what contracts (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies have had with (i) Manchester College, (ii) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (iii) City College, Manchester for the provision of education in prisons since 1997.

Prior to July 2005 education for offenders in public sector prisons in England was delivered by providers under contract to the Prison Service.

A contract for £9,407,045 was let by the Learning and Skills Council for the delivery of offender learning in 6 Northwest prisons delivering the development phase of the learning and skills service (OLASS) in the academic year August 2005/July 2006.

Following and open and competitive tendering process OLASS was rolled out to all public prisons in England from August 2006. A contract was let by the Learning and Skills Council to City College Manchester for £41,671,020 for the 2006/07 academic year in 36 prisons.

In subsequent years the value of those contracts were as follows 07/08 £48,183,598, 08/09 £50,108,047. It is important to note that between August 2005 and July 2009 additional provision for the juvenile estate (those aged 15-17 yrs) were included in the contracts.

Following the dissolution of the LSC the responsibility for juvenile education transferred to the YPLA.

Following a further open and competitive tendering process the Learning and Skills Council let contract to The Manchester College for 70 prisons. The value of those contracts in 09/10 as £69,570,465 and in 20/11 was £72,812,708.

Letter from David Williams, dated 6 May 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking what contracts (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies have had with (i) Manchester College, (ii) Manchester College for Arts and Technology and (iii) City College, Manchester for the provision of education in prisons since 1997. (54806)

The UK Space Agency has placed no contracts with Manchester College, Manchester College for Arts and Technology or the City College, Manchester during this period.

Letter from John Alty, dated 6 May 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 4th May 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The IPO has not had any contracts with the above institutions for the provision of education in prisons since 2005. No records are available prior to this date.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 6 May 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 4 May 2011, UIN54806 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has never had any contracts with Manchester College, Manchester College for Arts and Technology or City College, Manchester at all.

Startup Britain

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the establishment of Startup Britain. [53337]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* Startup Britain is a business-led initiative receiving no public funds. The Government whole-heartedly endorsed the campaign at its launch on 28 March and used the launch of Startup Britain to highlight its own strategy to make the UK the very best place in the world to start and grow a business. The public contribution to the cost of staging this event was £8,012.70.

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to take steps to establish a groceries code adjudicator. [55080]

Mr Davey: The draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill will be published for pre-legislative scrutiny shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology: Graduates

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects of reductions in humanities funding on employment prospects for graduates in archaeology and related subjects. [54851]

John Penrose: Ministers from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and Business, Innovations and Skills have had meetings about the effects of reductions in funding on higher education but not about the specifics of employability for graduates in archaeology or related subjects. Future funding will increasingly flow from graduate contributions—that was the principle behind Lord Browne's recommendations. Universities will be able to secure an equivalent flow of income if their course provision remains attractive to students. Universities must consider, therefore, how to structure their arts courses in ways that make them as attractive as possible to students.

Arts: Disadvantaged

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to improve access to the arts among disadvantaged groups. [54489]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* Arts Council England (ACE) is responsible for improving access to the arts among disadvantaged groups.

ACE has set out its commitment to the widest possible access for all of the country's communities in its 10 year manifesto 'Achieving great art for everyone'. They are currently working on developing the practical actions required as an organisation to deliver this at regional, area and national levels.

ACE also publishes an Annual Equality Review which reviews performance in race, gender and disability equality areas. By 2012 they will voluntarily produce a single equality scheme covering all the protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010 legislation.

British Sky Broadcasting

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to announce his decision on News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB. [54309]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* I will announce my decision after I have carefully considered the representations I have received on the undertaking in lieu.

Broadband

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent progress he has made on the roll-out of fast speed broadband. [54488]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The Government set out their broadband strategy in 'Britain's Superfast Broadband Future' on 6 December 2010. At the same time I announced that the next £50 million of funding from Broadband Delivery UK would be made available for bids in spring 2011.

Since the publication of the strategy document BDUK has published guidance for local authorities on how to prepare local broadband plans and how to bid for the next wave of funds. The closing date for submission of bids was 18 April and I expect to announce the next locations to receive funding at the end of May.

In addition, £10 million of funding was announced in February 2011 in support of broadband roll-out in North Wales and the procurement processes for the pilot project in Cumbria began in April 2011. The procurement processes for the other pilot projects will begin shortly.

We have also held discussions with the industry on the series of policy interventions outlined in the strategy document encouraging infrastructure sharing in particular.

In the recent Budget, the Government announced that enterprise zones would have superfast broadband available to them. We will also be issuing guidance on measures designed to facilitate and reduce the costs of broadband roll-out—microtrenching and streetworks.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54558]

John Penrose: In the financial year 2010-11, the Department's spend on pension contributions was 7.6% of the overall administration budget.

The Department is not able to quantify the proportion of its administrative budget it expects to spend on staff pensions. It would be at a disproportionate cost to try and speculate on the numerous factors which would affect the proportion of budget spent.

All permanent staff of the Department are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PSCPS) unless they have opted for a stakeholder pension scheme. The Department makes monthly contributions to PSCPS to meet the accrued liability for service worked by staff.

Departmental Work Experience

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what advice his Department provides to those wishing to *(a)* work as an intern, *(b)* undertake a work experience placement and *(c)* work as a volunteer in his Department. [52806]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not run a work placement scheme. However, we do participate in Cabinet Office run schemes that set up work placements for high calibre graduates and undergraduates from under-represented groups.

The Fast Stream Ethnic Minority Summer Development programme (SDP), and the Summer Placement scheme for Graduates with Disabilities (SPS), aims to address the under-representation of ethnic minorities and people with disabilities in the civil service, by offering them opportunities to experience working in Departments. Information regarding these schemes can be found on the fast steam website at the following link:

http://faststream.civilservice.gov.uk/Summer-Diversity-Internships/

Additionally, we recommend visiting our website using the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/our_sponsored_bodies/963.aspx

which lists all of our sponsored bodies and other related organisations, who may have opportunities for work placements.

Heritage Funding: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which places of worship in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London have received funding from (i) English Heritage and (ii) the Heritage Lottery Fund since 1997. [53938]

John Penrose: The information requested is not held by the Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executives of English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund to write direct to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Heritage Funding: Religious Buildings

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of grants awarded by *(a)* English Heritage and *(b)* the Heritage Lottery Fund have been spent on places of worship in each year since 1997. [53942]

John Penrose: The information requested is not held by the Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executives of English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund to write direct to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Football Licensing Authority

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to *(a)* retain the expertise and *(b)* carry out the functions of the Football Licensing Authority. [54462]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government intend to retain the functions and expertise of the Football Licensing Authority (or, if the Sports Grounds Safety Authority Bill is enacted, the Sports Grounds Safety Authority) but to transfer them to another body after 2012. We are currently seeking the necessary powers through the Public Bodies Bill and are considering which body would be an appropriate home for these important functions.

Gambling

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of gambling authorities in overseas jurisdictions wishing to join the White List; and if he will make a statement. [54661]

John Penrose: Over the last year I have had discussions with the Jersey Gambling Commission and the Jersey Government about our review of the regulation of overseas based remote gambling and the possible implications for the White List.

Gaming Machines: Coastal Areas

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will take steps to provide assistance to seaside arcades at risk of closure; and if he will make a statement; [54653]

(2) if he will estimate the number of seaside arcades operating gaming machines which will close in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [54654]

John Penrose: Representations have been made by the amusement industry about the pressures being faced by seaside arcades operating gaming machines, but it is not possible from the information provided to estimate the number of businesses that might close in the next three years.

Coastal destinations and attractions can make an important contribution to the Government's tourism strategy and VisitEngland have been working with the British Resorts and Destinations Association and the industry to develop a Seaside Resorts Action Plan which will be released in the summer. The Government are also looking at how we can reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and I have been reviewing the maximum stake limit and premises entitlements for category B3 gaming machines with a view to providing some level of assistance to the British amusement industry. I hope to make an announcement soon on the outcome of that review.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter of 18 March 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr P. Walsh. [54820]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I responded to the letter of 18 March 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 1 April 2010, which was emailed directly to his parliamentary office.

I will arrange for another copy of this letter to be emailed to the right hon. Member.

Television

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to announce the preferred bidder for the National TV Spine to support local television. [54461]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We have received over 130 responses to the Local Media Action Plan from the public and industry. We are currently analysing these consultation responses and will be publishing a statement, addressing the issues raised and outlining the next steps for local TV, in due course.

JUSTICE

British Nationals Abroad: Terrorism

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he plans to implement the provisions of the Crime and Security Act 2010 related to compensation for victims of terrorism overseas; [55073]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the provisions of the Crime and Security Act 2010 related to compensation for victims of terrorism overseas. [55074]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The issue of compensation for victims of terrorism overseas is being considered alongside a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and wider victims' services about which the Government expect to make an announcement before the summer recess.

The provisions in the Crime and Security Act 2010 relate to a potential forward-looking compensation scheme, the cost of which would depend on the number and impact of future overseas terrorist attacks and the design of any scheme. It is not possible with any degree of accuracy to predict the cost of such a scheme.

Further Education: Manchester

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments his Department and its agencies have made to *(a)* Manchester College, *(b)* Manchester College for Arts and Technology and *(c)* City College, Manchester since its inception; and for what purpose in each case. [54809]

Mr Blunt: Since the formation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007 the Department and its executive agencies have spent the following with The Manchester College:

	£
Ministry of Justice	
2007-08	11,445.00
2008-09	0
2009-10	0
2010-11	0
2011-12	0
Total	11,445.00
HM Courts and Tribunals Service	
2007-08	1,410.00
2008-09	3,525.00
2009-10	6,765.00
2010-11	0
2011-12	0
Total	11,700.00

	£
National Offender Management Service	
2007-08	55,142.83
2008-09	210,105.49
2009-10	1,900,872.30
2010-11	3,338,550.87
2011-12	48,487.27
Total	5,553,158.76
Office of the Public Guardian	
2007-08	0
2008-09	0
2009-10	0
2010-11	0
2011-12	0
Total	0

The Manchester College for Arts and Technology and City College, Manchester, merged to become The Manchester College on 1 August 2008. As a result of the merger, all payments made since May 2007 are recorded as being made to The Manchester College.

It is not possible to provide a detailed list of the transactions and their purpose without incurring a disproportionate cost.

The Manchester College provides professional development training to Ministry of Justice and HMCTS staff who are undertaking accredited courses with the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) and Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD).

NOMS use The Manchester College to provide training services for prisoners and NOMS staff and services to improve employment prospects for offenders.

Information Commissioner

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Office of the Information Commissioner is unable to assess cases more than 12 months after the incident has occurred. [54824]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner's Office may take account of any undue delay on the part of an applicant when deciding whether to investigate a complaint. The ICO considers the individual circumstances of requesters when making such decisions.

The ICO discharges its responsibilities independently of Government. It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment on the ICO's handling of any individual complaints.

Joint Enterprise

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the common law doctrine on joint enterprise. [54973]

Mr Blunt: We have received a number of representations about joint enterprise law. These have included concerns that the law allows some gang members involved in the commission of offences to escape prosecution. Conversely, concerns have also been raised that other people have been convicted where their involvement in the activities of the group was not significant enough to warrant conviction for the offences in question.

Legal Aid: Domestic Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the availability of legal aid for victims of domestic violence who do not seek an initial non-molestation order but are subsequently required to appear in court in respect of residence and related matters. [55034]

Mr Djanogly: The Government's consultation paper "Proposals for the reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" proposed retaining legal aid for private law family cases (which include residence matters) where there is objective evidence of domestic violence. The consultation sought views on the circumstances which might provide such evidence. We are currently considering the responses to the consultation and will publish our response to consultation in due course.

Legal Aid: London

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the change on the level of legal aid expenditure in London as a result of the implementation of proposed reforms. [55072]

Mr Djanogly: The impact assessments published alongside the consultation paper detail the potential impacts of the proposals. However, these do not consider any specific geographic areas, and there is no intention to conduct such an assessment.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on legal aid in London in 2009-10. [55075]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid expenditure in London in 2009-10 was £583 million.

London is determined by the location of the solicitor firm, except for Crown Court non-contracted cases, where the location of the court has been used. There are elements of spend, such as telephone advice, for which it is not possible to allocate a region. These are not therefore included.

Mediation

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to *(a)* support and *(b)* promote the use of mediation services for disputes. [54890]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to encouraging the public to resolve their issues out of court without recourse to public funds, using simpler, more informal remedies where they are appropriate.

A new Pre-Application Protocol for Family Mediation Information and Assessment meetings came into effect on 6 April, This will help to promote awareness and understanding of mediation and begin to harmonise the position between self-funding and publicly funded individuals.

In 2009-10, we spent £14.4 million pounds on publicly funded family mediations. In our recent legal aid consultation paper we proposed that most family private law proceedings—other than cases where domestic violence or forced marriage is involved and child abduction cases—be removed from the scope of legal aid. Crucially, however, as we believe that supporting families at their most difficult moments is vitally important, it is proposed that free mediation for the types of dispute that previously were in scope will continue to those who are eligible. This will mean that those vulnerable people who need support will be able to benefit from mediation.

We also look forward to receiving the final recommendations from the independently-chaired Family Justice Review panel this autumn. This will help us to consider how the use of dispute resolution could be further encouraged across the family justice system.

As far as civil justice is concerned, on 29 March we issued a consultation document "Solving disputes in the county courts: creating a simpler, quicker and more proportionate system", which seeks views on a range of proposals to reform the civil justice system, including greater use of mediation.

In particular, we are consulting on introducing automatic referral to mediation in small claims cases, and mediation information sessions in higher-value cases. This is to help people avoid the anxiety and expense of court where possible, although court will still be an option for those who mediation cannot help.

This builds on the current service offered by the courts, where over each of the past two years some 10,000 small claims have been mediated with nearly three-quarters reaching successful conclusion. The vast majority of these mediations take place over the telephone—saving people the time and expense of having to attend a court.

Prisoners: Self-harm

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what definition of self-harming the Prison Service uses; [55060]

(2) how many instances of self-harming were reported on the prison estate in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2009-10; [55061]

(3) how many instances of self-harming were reported in each prison in England and Wales in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2009-10. [55062]

Mr Blunt: Self-harm in prison custody is defined as

"any act where a prisoner deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent or severity of any injury".

Annual numbers of self-harm incidents from 2004 to 2009 are publicly available on the Ministry of Justice website, as part of our Safety in Custody statistics. They can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/safety-custody-self-harm-statistics-0710.xls

Table 12 lists incidents by prison, by year. The relevant information for 2010 is currently in process for publication later this year.

The Prison Service has recorded information on self-harm since the early 1990s but the focus was limited to the most serious incidents of self-harm. Since 2003, new procedures introduced the recording of all self-harm incidents, regardless of severity. This improvement resulted in a 60% increase in recording. Consequently, self-harm figures prior to 2004 are not comparable with those produced since.

Prisons: Manpower

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* operational staffing requirement and *(b)* number of staff in post was for each grade of staff employed at each prison directly operated by HM Prison Service on 31March 2011. [55003]

Mr Blunt: Information on the operational staffing requirement and staff in post for each grade of staff employed at each public sector Prison Service establishment on 31 March has been deposited in the House Library.

Social Security Benefits

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the costs incurred by parties in the case of Arathoon *v.* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (C/2005/0126). [54119]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Work and Pensions holds records relating to the case of Arathoon *v.* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in the Court of Appeal. The Department's records indicate that £8,218.23 was spent on the legal proceedings. This includes the appellant's legal costs in the Court of Appeal, but does not include work done by the Department's staff.

Social Workers

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many independent social workers were appointed in care cases in each of the last three years. [55033]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested on the number of independent social workers appointed in care cases for each of the last three years is as follows:

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Family proceedings courts (magistrates)	15	307	316
County courts	[1]32	138	156

[1] Data in the county courts for 2008 cover the period April to December; data for January to March 2008 are not available.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Petitions: Electronic Government

Hazel Blears: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect on the accountability and transparency of Government of the suspension of the facility to submit petitions through the Downing street website. [46998]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply

No specific assessment of the effects of the suspension of the electronic petitions site that was available through the Downing street website on accountability and transparency has been made.

A new ePetitions website hosted by Directgov is planned to be available by the summer recess.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has received notification of any proposal by the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe to make a third party intervention under the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights in the case of Greens and MT *v.* UK pending judgment in the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. [51633]

Mr Harper: I understand that the Commissioner made no such intervention. The Government sought to refer the Greens and MT judgment against the UK to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. We are disappointed with the Court's decision not to reconsider the judgment. We are considering the next steps.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the commitment made at the G8 summit in 2010 to produce an accountability report to track progress towards the maternal and child health pledges made in the Muskoka Declaration. [54837]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK strongly supports the reproductive, maternal, newborn and under-five health pledges made in the Muskoka Declaration. We welcome the G8 decision to produce an accountability report in 2011 that focuses on health and food security.

We are working with colleagues in the G8 Health Experts Group, the G8 Accountability Working Group, and the G8 Sherpa process to ensure that the 2011 Deauville Accountability Report assesses progress against all outstanding health commitments including those made at Muskoka in a clear, credible and transparent way.

It is important that individual countries clarify what they are committed to under the Muskoka Initiative and give an indication, as far as possible, of how they plan to fulfil their commitments.

Global School Partnerships

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to the London borough of Bexley for the Global School Partnerships scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [54840]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Bexley council was awarded a £6,600 grant under the Global School Partnership (GSP) scheme to support 10 Bexley schools to link with 10 schools in the Ikeja Province in Nigeria on 25 August 2010. £5,280 of this grant has been paid out to support the costs of six exchange visits. The remaining £1,320 will be paid out when Bexley council submits its final report in November 2011.

The GSP supports twinning between schools in the UK and those in the developing world. An independent assessment of the impact of GSP showed that pupils in the scheme have significantly higher knowledge of the challenges for developing countries and are more likely to have positive attitudes towards international development. DFID is currently completing a review of the use of aid funds in the UK to promote awareness of global poverty.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what public sector job reduction targets have been set for his Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps he plans to take to meet such targets. [51530]

Mr Maude: The Government have not set targets for a reduction in the number of posts in the Cabinet Office or its non-departmental public bodies.

Work force implications of the spending review settlement will depend on internal budget allocations and subsequent management decisions. However, for the Cabinet Office overall, the Department is expecting to reduce headcount by around 20% over the spending review period, which represents a reduction of between 300 and 400 posts from a baseline of 1,800.

The Department expects much of this to be achieved through natural turnover. However, it has recently run a voluntary exit scheme which is expected to result in just under 200 exits. The Department has no current plans for further schemes.

Financial Ombudsman Service

Mr Buckland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS); how many complaints are outstanding at the FOS; and how many such complaints have been waiting for a final decision for more than one month. [54021]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) is operationally independent of Government. In 2003 the FOS' public interest board committed to commissioning and publishing an independent external review every three years. The latest review, which is due this year, will be led by the National Audit Office and will report on the FOS' efficiency.

I understand that at the end of April the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) had 138,611 open cases and that 10,070 of these cases had been waiting over a month for a final decision from an ombudsman.

The number of cases referred for a final Ombudsman decision has increased by 50%. The FOS has been recruiting more ombudsmen to tackle this.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to reply to the letter of 11 March 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms C. Dean. [54783]

Mr Hurd: The information requested fell within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I asked the authority to reply.

A reply was sent to the right hon. Member by the census director of the Office for National Statistics on 29 March.

Minimum Wage: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people resident in each London borough receive the national minimum wage. [55221]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people resident in each London borough receive the national minimum wage. (55221)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics. Estimates for the number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage are available, but only for all employee jobs by Government Office Region, which is the lowest geographical breakdown published by ONS. I attach a table showing the number of all employee jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for London and for the UK in April 2010, the latest period for which figures are available.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of jobs paid below the national minimum wage for London and the UK in April 2010

	2010	
	Thousand	*Percentage*
London	*22	*0.6
UK	271	1.1

Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.
Key:
* CV>5% and <=10%
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics 2010

Pensions: Complaints

Sajid Javid: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Pensions Regulator; how many complaints were outstanding at the Pensions Regulator on the latest date for which information is available; and how many such complaints had been waiting for a final decision for more than nine months. [54300]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Pensions Regulator was set up in April 2005 with a new proactive and risk-based regulatory approach, placing greater emphasis on identifying and tackling real risks to members' benefits. There is ongoing assessment of the regulator's performance at both ministerial and official level. In addition, the regulator must submit an annual report on its activities to the Secretary of State, which is then laid before Parliament.

The independent Hampton Implementation Reviews of Regulatory Bodies look at how well regulators are following the Hampton principles of better regulation and assess the characteristics of effective sanctions, as defined by the Macrory Review. The Hampton Report on the Pensions Regulator, published on 29 January 2010, had extremely positive findings: the review team concluded that the Hampton principles were thoroughly embedded in the regulator's work, both at strategic and operational levels.

At 3 May, the latest date for which information is available, the regulator had two complaints outstanding. Both of these were within the regulator's 20-day deadline for responding. There were no complaints which had been outstanding for more than nine months.

Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the status is of the Commission for Rural Communities; and if he will make a statement. [53925]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The Cabinet Office is responsible for leading and co-ordinating the overall programme for Public Bodies reform, while Departments are responsible for decisions on individual bodies.

The Commission for Rural Communities is listed in Schedule 1 to the Public Bodies Bill as the Government are seeking a power to abolish the body subject to necessary legislative and consultative processes, and the consent of Parliament. Meanwhile, the Commission will continue to exercise its statutory functions.

I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made on 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 41-42WS, which describes the way the Commission will operate and its relationship with the new Rural Communities Policy Unit in DEFRA.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will request the administration of the European Court of Human Rights to amend the factsheet of the European Court of Human Rights entitled Prisoners' Right to Vote published in February 2011 to include reference to *(a)* the outcome of the division on the motion on Voting by Prisoners of 10 February 2011, Votes and Proceedings, No. 115 and *(b)* the arguments addressed in the UK against granting prisoners the right to vote. [52475]

Mr Harper: Factsheets are compiled, by theme, by the Council of Europe's (CoE) Press Service on the European Court of Human Right's case law and pending cases. Their content is a matter for the CoE.

The Information Note is available on the Committee of Ministers' website:

https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1753877&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Insurance

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, (1) if he will urge the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to publish guidance on the general subject headings under which claims may be made by hon. Members for insurance premiums relating to staff employment litigation; [53609]

(2) to what extent the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will accept claims from hon. Members for reimbursement of expenditure incurred on insurance premiums relating to staff employment litigation; and what the maximum sum is that can be claimed for the purchase of such insurance. [53611]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking whether IPSA will publish guidance for MPs claiming reimbursement of premia for legal expenses insurance under the MPs' Expenses Scheme.

Legal Expenses Insurance (which may cover costs associated with staff employment litigation) is claimable from the Office Costs Expenditure budget. This budget is capped at £24,000 for London Area MPs and £21,500 for non-London Area MPs. All claims for such premia must meet the rules of the Scheme and the evidence requirements.

As MPs have discretion over claims for costs which meet the conditions of the Office Costs Expenditure budget, IPSA does not intend to provide further guidance to MPs on this matter.

HEALTH

CJD: Disease Control

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on research into *(a)* prion decontamination and *(b)* variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease blood tests in each year for which figures are available. [54815]

Mr Simon Burns: Available figures for expenditure from the Department's central research and development budgets on research relating to prion decontamination and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) blood tests are shown in the following table.

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Prion decontamination	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1
vCJD blood tests	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.4

Heart Diseases

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the NHS spent on *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency admissions for acute myocardial infarction in (i) each primary care trust and (ii) England in each of the last three years for which data are available; [54946]

(2) how much the NHS spent on acute myocardial infarction in *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* England in each of the last three years for which data are available; [54947]

(3) what the repeat admission rate for acute myocardial infarction was in *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* England in each of the last three years for which data are available. [54948]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Further information about acute myocardial infarction is available from the Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project at:

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/myocardial-ischaemia-national-audit-project-minap

NHS Future Forum

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what listening exercise events the NHS Future Forum plans to undertake before the end of the consultation; [54877]

(2) what listening exercise events the NHS Future Forum has held to date. [54878]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Future Forum is participating in a number of meetings and discussions throughout the listening period. Over 200 such opportunities have already been arranged over the two month period, involving a wide range of participants from across the national health service, local government, third sector and beyond. Host organisations for upcoming events will be publicising these as they feel most appropriate through their usual channels.

We will publish a weekly update on who Forum members have been hearing from, available through the Modernisation of Health and Care website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare

Additionally, details of all the listening events held, including dates, location and audience, will be released alongside the NHS Future Forum's report.

Radiotherapy: Finance

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to section 6.12 of his Department's report on Improving outcomes: a strategy for cancer (1) which NHS hospital trusts have applied for additional investment for radiotherapy in 2011-12; [54764]

(2) what criteria he proposes for hospitals to be eligible for additional investment for radiotherapy; [54765]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of additional investment for radiotherapy which will be available during the current financial year. [54767]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" sets out our commitment to expand radiotherapy capacity by investing over £150 million in additional funding over the next four years. This will support increased utilisation of existing equipment, establish new services to increase capacity in some areas and ensure that all high priority patients with a need for proton beam therapy treatment get access to it abroad.

This additional funding was included in the financial settlement for the spending review (SR) period 2011-12 to 2014-15 and will be included in primary care trust baseline allocations, alongside the existing funding for radiotherapy. Around 10%, of the additional funding across the SR period is due to be made available in 2011-12.

The "NHS Operating Framework 2011-12" states that the national health service is expected to implement the new cancer strategy and that commissioners should develop plans to ensure that local populations have appropriate access to radiotherapy treatment.

Suicide

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 765W, on suicide, when he plans to publish his Department's suicide prevention strategy. [54768]

Paul Burstow: We are postponing the publication of the suicide prevention strategy to take into account changes made to the national health service modernisation programme, as a result of the Government's NHS listening exercise and the report from the NHS future forum.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Slaughterhouses

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of animals *(a)* slaughtered without stunning and *(b)* which suffered a mis-stunning in the last year for which figures are available. [54886]

Mr Paice: The most recent data on the slaughter of animals without prior stunning were published in March 2004 by the Meat Hygiene Service in its Animal Welfare Review. The data were collected through a survey of meat plants between 1 and 7 September 2003. The following table shows the number of animals killed over that period without prior stunning for the production of kosher and halal meat:

Species	*Not stunned*
Cattle	365
Calves	8
Young lambs	6,845
Other sheep	11,454
Goats	62
Broilers	167,745
Hens	15,900
Turkeys	749
Ducks	610

More recent data collected by the EU Dialrel project:

http://www.dialrel.eu/images/factsheet-assesment-practices.pdf

show that, of the UK abattoirs surveyed, 100% of the animals and birds slaughtered for the production of kosher meat were slaughtered without prior stunning. For halal meat, 25% of cattle and 7% of sheep were slaughtered without prior stunning. The Dialrel data also indicate that no poultry were slaughtered for halal production without stunning.

There are no data available on mis-stunning.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* advice officials have provided to Ministers in her Department and *(b)* information held by her Department on the granting of licences to volunteers to shoot badgers in areas affected by bovine tuberculosis; and if she will make a statement. [54665]

Mr Paice: It is not usual practice for officials' advice to Ministers to be published in the House Library.

The consultation document published in September 2010 was placed in the House Library and outlines the Government's proposal for a badger control policy, including the granting of culling licences.

I must emphasise that no decision has yet been taken on whether to permit badger culling. We received a large number of responses to our recently concluded consultation, which we are considering carefully. This is a difficult and sensitive issue and we need to get it right. We will announce our decision as part of a comprehensive and balanced TB eradication programme for England, as soon as possible.

Common Fisheries Policy

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had on reform of the common fisheries policy. [54942]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister I, and my officials, have had discussions with a range of organisations and people about common fisheries policy (CFP) reform. These include the EU Commission and other members states at the Fisheries Council on 14 April. We have also met representatives of the fishing industry—both large scale and under 10 metre fleets, retailers, and non-government organisations.

We plan to have further discussions in pressing our case for radical reform of the CFP.

Countryside: Access

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of public access network have been available in each of the last three years; and how many are forecast to be available in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; and if she will make a statement. [54393]

Richard Benyon: The management of public rights of way is the responsibility of local highway authorities in England. The Government do not gather annual figures on the public access network, but it is estimated that in England there are currently approximately 119,550 miles of public rights of way comprising: footpaths (91,250 miles); bridleways (22,250 miles); restricted byways (3750 miles); and byways open to all traffic (2,300 miles). Further public access in the countryside is available, for example under agri-environment schemes and permissive access granted by the landowner.

Departmental Manpower

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the most recent previous employment was of senior staff newly employed on fixed-term contracts in her Department since May 2010. [34637]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has appointed two senior staff on fixed-term appointments since May 2010. Before joining DEFRA, the most recent employment of one was as a Director of Hyder Consulting and the other as Head of Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Durham University.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of her Department's budget she expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54562]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows pension contributions for the core Department and its executive agencies, expressed as a percentage of DEFRA's total DEL budget for 2011-12 until 2014-15.

	Percentage
2011-12	1.93
2012-13	1.66
2013-14	1.78
2014-15	1.88

These figures are based on analysis undertaken for the spending review and, as such, are subject to variation based on the actual numbers and profile of staff that leave over that period. There are no figures available for 2015-16, as no DEL budget has been agreed beyond the current spending review period.

Departmental Plants

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on indoor and outdoor plants and trees since her appointment. [48424]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the period of May 2010 to February 2011 has incurred expenditure of £5,070 on indoor and outdoor plants. This includes four of our agencies, Animal Health, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Rural Payments Agency, the Food and Environment Research Agency and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and two non-departmental public bodies, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation.

It should be noted that as part of our efficiency drive the provision of internal planting is being written out of the grounds maintenance contract.

Departmental Travel

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many first-class rail journeys were undertaken by staff in her Department between April 2010 and April 2011; and what the total cost was of such journeys. [53164]

Richard Benyon: The information is as follows:

	Number	*£*
Department for Environment, Food And Rural Affairs	643	130,973
Animal Health	18	2,273
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	42	7,217
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	14	2,684
Rural Payments Agency	251	52,532
Rpa UK Co-ordinating Body	37	11,825
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	Nil	Nil
Food and Environment Research Agency	53	5,162

Core DEFRA:

Of the total cost of the core DEFRA journeys, 81% of this spend was incurred during the first three months of the year with significant reductions in volume and cost of first class travel being made in the following nine months.

The data above are from the departments travel management supplier and do not include first-class journeys that may have been taken, paid for by their own resources and claimed by staff through the expenses system. In addition, the figures do not include expense claims by staff for upgrades to first-class. To identify and validate individual expenses transactions would incur disproportionate cost.

CEFAS:

These include journeys undertaken in the fulfilment of non-government customer contracts, Animal Health—All these journeys occurred before 4 June 2010.

FERA:

Most of these journeys were either reimbursed by the customer as part of a project or on other occasions were the lowest possible fare for that journey.

RPA:

Of the total cost of the RPA journeys, 87% of this spend was incurred during the first three months of the year with significant reductions in volume and cost of first class travel being made in the following nine months.

For the first-class rail journeys undertaken by staff in the UK Co-ordinating Body between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011, full reimbursement of £10,608.59 for

26 of these journeys was made by the European Commission. The cost of the remaining 11 journeys was £1,216.30. This spend was incurred during the first three months of the year and there was nil expenditure on first-class travel in the remaining nine months of the year.

Elephants: Ivory

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to discourage future legal ivory sales within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species framework. [54924]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Sheffield South East (Mr Betts) on 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 784W.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support her Department is providing through international organisations to reduce the level of poaching of elephants in central and west Africa. [54925]

Richard Benyon: The UK as a party to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) supports its efforts to maintain or enhance countries' enforcement capabilities. In the second half of May, the UK will be participating in a CITES-organised rhino and elephant enforcement task force meeting which will exchange intelligence reports and methodologies and develop strategies to tackle the illegal trade in both animals across their ranges.

Fisheries: East of England

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effects of cormorant predation on recreational and commercial fisheries in the east of England; and if she will make a statement. [41429]

Richard Benyon: There have been no recent scientific assessments of the effects of cormorant predation on recreational and commercial fisheries in the east of England. However, licences to shoot cormorants, typically as an aid to scaring, are issued on a case by case basis at sites where there is evidence of serious damage to fisheries or a risk of serious damage occurring. In the most recent licensing period for which statistics are available (September 2009 to April 2010), 44 such licences, permitting a total of 211 cormorants to be killed, were issued in the east of England.

I announced at the Angling and Fisheries Summit on the 25 January 2011 that the Government are to review the current licensing regime for cormorants. It is important to ensure the licensing regime delivers the conservation benefits needed, while also ensuring that where fish stocks are threatened swift action can be taken.

Forests

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who was responsible for drafting the consultation document on the future of the public forest estate in England; and what contribution staff in *(a)* the Forestry Commission and *(b)* her Department made to the drafting. [54397]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The Forestry Commission and DEFRA provided advice and jointly drafted the consultation document. The Forestry Commission produced the design and layout of the final document.

Rabbits

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to ensure that her Department collects and publishes statistics on rabbit farming in a manner similar to statistics for other farmed species. [54535]

Mr Paice: Levels of rabbit production are too low to justify the collection and publication of statistics in a manner similar to other farmed species.

Seas and Oceans

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the seabed off the coastline of the UK has been mapped. [54849]

Richard Benyon: Approximately 10% of the UK continental shelf is mapped from survey data. The remaining 90% is derived from habitat modelling.

Trees: Diseases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on forests of diseases affecting pine trees; what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on such diseases; what steps she is taking to prevent their spread; and if she will make a statement. [54756]

Mr Paice: The most significant disease of pines in England is red band needle blight caused by a fungal pathogen. This disease was first reported in the 1950s, when it was rare, but the disease has become more widespread since the late 1990s. The Forestry Commission has carried out extensive forest surveys over the last 10 years and the disease is now found across the whole of Britain.

The Forestry Commission's research programme includes annual disease surveys, increasing our understanding of the fungal biology to aid management decisions, tests on the susceptibility of alternative species, and studying the impact of changing forest management practices on the incidence and severity of the disease.

A full pest risk assessment has been undertaken. The disease is most damaging on Corsican and lodgepole pine, while the native Scots pine is moderately susceptible. The impact of the disease is to reduce tree growth rates, which can occasionally result in mortality.

There is a moratorium on planting Corsican pine on the public forest estate and the use of lodgepole pine is minimal. Future policy and research is directed by a Great Britain programme board that includes representation from the forest industry.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he expects the extension targets contained within Statutory Instrument No. 1958 (2010) concerning the Electricity and Gas Act (Carbon Emissions Reduction) Amendment Order 2010 will be met by the stated date; and if he will make a statement. [55291]

Gregory Barker: Yes, the statutory targets on suppliers enforced under this legislation were set to be challenging but achievable. In the most recent update on progress to December 2010, the scheme administrators Ofgem reported that suppliers had achieved 62% of the target of 293 million tonnes of lifetime carbon dioxide savings which suggests that they are on track to deliver 100% before December 2012.

Climate Change: Export Credit Guarantees

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has provided information to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) on the effects on climate change of the businesses supported by the ECGD. [54367]

Gregory Barker: DECC has not provided information to ECGD on the effects on climate change of the business it has supported in the past. DECC is consulted when ECGD is asked to support new projects which have been categorised as having high potential environmental impacts (Category A) as defined in the OECD Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits which regulates the basis upon which Export Credit Agencies address environmental, social and human rights impacts of projects.

Environment Protection

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to support a transition towards a low carbon economy. [54905]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to creating the right framework for businesses to drive growth in the low-carbon economy.

The recent Plan for Growth set out a number of measures specifically designed to support the UK's transition to a low carbon economy. These include the introduction of a carbon price floor from April 2013 to encourage greater investment in low carbon power; funding of Carbon Capture and Storage demonstration plant from general taxation; supporting the infrastructure development needed to enable the transition through the Green Investment Bank; and promoting the development of new markets for green goods and services through measures such as the Green Deal, installation of smart meters, the Renewable Heat Incentive, Feed-in Tariffs, incentives to reduce the up-front costs of ultra-low emission vehicles and leveraging the Government's public procurement power to drive these markets.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken with its international counterparts to support a transition to a low carbon global economy. [54906]

Gregory Barker: The Department engages in multiple energy and climate change fora, including bilateral and multilateral initiatives, in support of a move to a low carbon global economy.

Through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other informal dialogues, the Department engages in the negotiations on the key issues towards delivering an ambitious global agreement on climate change, essential in underpinning the transition to a global low carbon economy.

Other relevant work includes our involvement in the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) and the Clean Energy Ministerial.

As an example, on 6 and 7 April 2011 the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), attended the Clean Energy Ministerial in Abu Dhabi, a high-level forum to promote policies and programmes that advance clean energy technology and encourage the transition to a global clean energy economy. Participating governments account for more than 80% of global energy consumption and a similar percentage of the market for clean energy technologies.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what incentives his Department provides for businesses to adopt low carbon alternatives. [54908]

Gregory Barker: The following incentives are available for businesses seeking to adopt low carbon alternatives:

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) provide financial support for small-scale, low-carbon electricity generation from eligible technologies.

Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) provide businesses with 100% tax relief on qualifying energy-saving equipment in the same tax year as the purchase is made.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency scheme provides a mix of financial and reputational drivers to encourage large public and private sector organisations to improve their energy efficiency.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) announced in March, will also provide a financial incentive for businesses to install renewable heating such as biomass boilers, heat pumps and solar thermal panels, thereby reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.

In the future, the Green Deal (GD) will encourage businesses to make energy efficiency improvements financed through savings from energy bills.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage households to reduce their levels of carbon dioxide emissions. [54909]

Gregory Barker: The Government are already encouraging households to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions through a range of current and proposed policies. The Community Energy Saving Programme

(CESP) and recently extended Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT), both running to the end of 2012 have significant targets to reduce emissions.

This will all pave the way for the Green Deal, set out in the Energy Bill which is currently passing through the Commons. Under this innovative scheme, millions could enjoy warmer homes, save on their energy bills and reduce carbon emissions in the process.

The mass rollout of smart meters in homes from 2014 to 2019 will give consumers near real-time information on energy consumption to help them understand and reduce their energy use.

Furthermore, Feed-in Tariffs and the planned Renewable Heat Incentive in support of Microgeneration will support households to reduce their carbon footprint.

North Sea Oil

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will suspend the consideration of licence applications for deepwater drilling in UK waters until the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group publishes its final report; and if he will make a statement. [55164]

Charles Hendry: The Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group aims to identify and address cross industry issues with respect to well control and oil spill response in the UK in the light of information from the Macondo accident. Government are fully involved in and supports this work. There is nothing to suggest there is a case for suspending the consideration of licence applications for deepwater drilling in UK waters, or for suspending drilling operations, pending the results of this work, or of other relevant investigations or reviews.

We already have one of the most robust environmental and safety regimes in the world, and all new drilling operations are subject to detailed case by case scrutiny by my Department and the Health and Safety Executive. Nevertheless, we are not complacent and continue to look for improvements. Which is why we have launched an overall review of our regulatory regime which will report later this year.

WALES

Enterprise Zones

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the establishment of enterprise zones in Wales. [54365]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), had initial discussions with the First Minister on the day of the Budget and has since written to him on two occasions setting out our commitment to work with the Welsh Assembly Government to establish enterprise zones in Wales.

Both the Secretary of State and I will continue to champion the creation of enterprise zones in Wales with the Welsh Assembly Government now the Welsh elections have concluded.

Devolution Funding

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress has been made on the Government's commitment to undertake a process similar to the Calman Commission on devolution funding; and if she will make a statement. [54366]

Mrs Gillan: Following the 'yes' vote in the referendum on further powers, we have been giving careful thought to the scope and form of such a process. It is something that I intend to discuss as soon as possible with the First Minister now that the elections to the National Assembly have taken place.

EDUCATION

Departmental Conflict of Interests

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the guidance on conflicts of interest issued by his Department to members of independent review panels. [54575]

Mr Gibb: As set out in the regulation policy statement provided to the Education Committee on 7 March 2011, regulations will prescribe how independent review panels are to be established and the procedures that they will follow. They will cover the constitution, training requirements and ensuring of members' impartiality. We will consult further on details of the regulations in due course. In addition to this, the Department will also include a section on independent review panels in revised exclusion guidance when appropriate.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education from which of his Department's budgets the funding for the 16-19 bursary and discretionary fund will be drawn. [54011]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 May 2011]*: Funding for the 16-19 bursary (including the discretionary element) will be drawn from the budget for 16-19 financial support. In addition, as part of the budget discussions, the Department agreed a call on Treasury reserves for a minority of the funding to help with the new bursary scheme.

Education System

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received from hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies on his proposals to reform the education system in England. [54614]

Mr Gibb: Since the start of the parliamentary year, the Department has received around a 100 letters from hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies. Just over half of the letters focused primarily on schools policy, and terms and conditions for the school workforce was the most common subject. Statutory requirements for school teachers' pay and conditions in maintained schools are set out in national policy and frameworks covering England and Wales.

Other letters asked for Ministers' comments or response to a constituent's concern about specific aspects of (devolved) education policy. In a small number of cases, constituents or hon. Members noted that policies would not apply in Wales, but were concerned about the implications for people who live near the border, or concerned that the policy for England might set a precedent which would then be followed in Wales and so asked for a UK Government response.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has not held formal meetings with any of the hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies since the start of the parliamentary year.

Hon. Members representing Welsh constituencies have asked 145 parliamentary questions and the hon. Members for Arfon (Hywel Williams) and Cardiff West (Kevin Brennan) were members of the Commons Education Bill Committee. Parliamentary questions and answers are available from *Hansard*, as are records of debate in the Bill Committee.

Education: Assessments

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was paid to examination boards by maintained schools in each of the last five years. [53285]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 April 2011]*: The information is given in the following table.

	Examination fees (£)
2009/10	304,936,805
2008/09	282,992,325
2007/08	265,305,320
2006/07	240,861,264
2005/06	220,055,512

Further Education: Catering

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 285W, on further education: catering, whether he has received reports of any *(a)* further education and *(b)* sixth form colleges that do not have (i) kitchens and/or (ii) cafeterias. [54434]

Mr Gibb: During discussions with sixth form college and further education college principals we have been made aware that some do not have kitchens and/or cafeterias on all sites. Furthermore, many training providers would not have such facilities for their students.

GCE A-Level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of GCE A-level students were entered for GCE A-level *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* one or more foreign languages in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges in the latest period for which figures are available. [53182]

Mr Gibb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 786W. GCE A-level was based on "modern foreign languages". For consistency, the "foreign languages" part of this question has been answered on the same basis, which also reflects the data as published in the departmental Statistical First Releases (SFRs).

The information requested is shown in the following table:

		Number of GCE A-level students who were entered for		*Percentage of GCE A-level students who were entered for*	
School type	*Number of students taking GCE A-levels*	*Mathematics*	*One or more foreign languages*	*Mathematics*	*One or more foreign languages*
Comprehensive schools	124,846	26,790	8,432	21	7
Selective schools	22,006	8,251	2,856	37	13
Independent schools	35,245	13,425	6,806	38	19
Sixth-form colleges	52,641	11,178	3,277	21	6

Notes:
1. Figures include ungraded, no award (absent/declined) and pending entries.
2. Students get counted once if they have done more than one A-level in any subject category.
3. Figures are derived from data collected for the 2010 Performance tables.

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of A-level students were entered for at least three A-levels in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English literature, *(c)* further mathematics, *(d)* biological sciences, *(e)* physics, *(f)* chemistry, *(g)* geography, *(h)* history and *(i)* a modern foreign language in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective schools, (iii) independent schools and (iv) sixth form colleges (A) nationally and (B) in each local education authority in the most recent period for which figures are available. [54486]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 May 2011]*: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCSE

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children *(a)* in receipt of and *(b)* not in receipt of free school meals attained GCSE grade G or above in (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) science, (iv) history, (v) geography and (vi) an ancient or modern language in each local authority in the last academic year for which figures are available. [53726]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Higher Education: Teachers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many places there were at each higher education institution in England for initial teacher training in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; what his estimate is of the number of such places in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [54091]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 May 2011]:* The numbers of mainstream initial teacher training places allocated to higher education institutions in England for each of the academic years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 (as at 1 May 2011 and may be subject to minor change) are in the table.

	2009/10	*2010/11*	*2011/12*
Anglia Ruskin University	297	315	241
Bath Spa University	495	479	401
Birmingham City University	535	558	501
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	377	401	401
Bradford College	321	320	300
Brunel University	342	325	293
Canterbury Christ Church University	1197	1273	975
Central School of Speech and Drama	36	32	18
Edge Hill University	1332	1375	1206
Goldsmiths University	498	504	387
Institute of Education, University of London	1041	960	837
Keele University	212	231	198
King's College London	214	215	190
Kingston University	303	309	284
Leeds Metropolitan University	253	253	242
Leeds Trinity University College	319	287	268
Liverpool Hope University	816	812	710
Liverpool John Moores University	514	543	365
London Metropolitan University	295	308	266
London South Bank University	240	257	218
Loughborough University	130	129	97
Manchester Metropolitan University	1179	1174	1025
Middlesex University	486	490	388
Newman University College	498	453	412
Northumbria University	294	288	308
Nottingham Trent University	433	393	356
Oxford Brookes University	476	507	470
Roehampton University	706	689	636
Sheffield Hallam University	738	778	628
St Mary's University College, Twickenham	572	557	505
Staffordshire University	52	51	41
The Open University	216	253	200
University College Birmingham	30	34	41
University College Plymouth St Mark and St John	415	394	350
University of Bath	178	166	152
University of Bedfordshire	482	511	402
University of Birmingham	330	344	316
University of Brighton	681	728	615
University of Bristol	247	242	208
University of Cambridge	439	439	390
University of Chester	290	276	255
University of Chichester	427	438	393
University of Cumbria	1312	1413	1261
University of Derby	183	198	210
University of Durham	383	369	323
University of East Anglia	352	351	336
University of East London	448	476	424
University of Exeter	597	592	522
University of Gloucestershire	493	463	363
University of Greenwich	488	490	325
University of Hertfordshire	401	412	385
University of Huddersfield	175	169	116
University of Hull	384	392	368
University of Leeds	359	360	305
University of Leicester	312	309	284
University of Manchester	378	388	344
University of Newcastle	250	232	207
University of Northampton	226	232	251
University of Nottingham	265	261	261
University of Oxford	190	189	179
University of Plymouth	327	353	377
University of Portsmouth	140	140	110

	2009/10	*2010/11*	*2011/12*
University of Reading	315	300	255
University of Sheffield	153	148	123
University of Southampton	451	429	375
University of Sunderland	411	442	352
University of Sussex	170	169	145
University of the West of England	469	455	399
University of Warwick	456	464	364
University of Winchester	309	324	366
University of Wolverhampton	397	352	312
University of Worcester	463	487	466
University of York	140	140	128
York St John University	395	385	383

Note:
These figures exclude postgraduate places allocated to school-centred initial teacher training providers, employment-based programme and Teach First places.
Source:
Training and Development Agency for Schools

Estimates for academic years 2012/13 and 2013/14 are not yet available.

Pupils: Dyslexia

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department provides to local education authorities for the purposes of assessing dyslexia in pupils and providing support. [54229]

Mr Gibb: Funding data specifically for the purposes of assessing dyslexia in pupils and providing support are not collected by the Department. However the available information on the planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs for 2010-11 was £5,477 billion.

School Leaving

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of people who participated in the September Guarantee in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [54554]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The Under-Secretary of State for Schools, my noble Friend Lord Hill of Oareford, wrote to all local authorities on 17 February to make clear that the process of offering 16 and 17-year-olds a suitable place in education or training by the end of September, which has been known as the 'September Guarantee', will continue. This will help to ensure that more young people have the opportunity to continue their education and training as we move towards full participation of 16 and 17-year-olds by 2015. A copy of this letter is available on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/offersofeducationandtraining

Data from local authorities show that in 2009, 95.9% of 16-year-olds and 89.5% of 17-year-olds received an offer of a place in education or training. In 2010, 96.6% of 16-year-olds and 91.3% of 17-year-olds received an offer of a place.

Schools: Nurses

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of full-time equivalent school nurses employed in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Walsall South constituency. [55008]

Mr Gibb: The information shown in the following table is the full-time equivalent numbers of school nursing staff in England, West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area and Walsall Teaching PCT as at 30 September 2010.

		Full-time equivalent	
	England	*West Midlands strategic health authority area*	*Walsall teaching PCT*
School nursing	3,512	416	2
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	3,020	370	1
Nurse consultant	11	1	—
Modern matron	2	—	—
Manager	41	6	—
Qualified school nurse	1,104	189	5
Other 1st level	1,781	173	8
Other 2nd level	80	1	—
Support to doctors and nursing staff	492	46	8
Nursery nurse	137	13	4
Nursing assistant/ auxiliary	356	34	3

Notes:
1. The organisation within the Walsall South constituency with School nursing staff is Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT).
2. Full-time equivalent rounded to the nearest number—zero.
3. Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Sixth Form Colleges: Capital Investment

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1048-9W, on sixth-form colleges: capital investment, which of the sixth-form colleges listed undertook capital works of a monetary value of more than £1 million in the last five years. [54383]

Mr Gibb: Information held by the YPLA has recorded that 38 sixth-form colleges undertook capital works, the costs of which totalled more than £1 million over the last five years. The following list of the 38 colleges excludes those institutions that are no longer sixth-form colleges. In addition, some sixth form colleges will have undertaken capital works that did not require approval and for which the YPLA does not have information.

Sixth form colleges with projects with a cost of more than £1 million during period of April 2006 to March 2011

Alton College
Aquinas College
Ashton under Lyne Sixth Form College
Blackpool Sixth Form College
Bolton Sixth Form College
Cardinal Newman College
Carmel College
City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College
Coulsdon College
Farnborough Sixth Form College
Gateway College
Godalming College
Hartlepool Sixth Form College
Havering Sixth Form College
Huddersfield New College
Joseph Chamberlain College
Leyton Sixth Form College
Loreto College
Luton Sixth Form College
New College Pontefract
Notre Dame Sixth Form College
Portsmouth College
Queen Mary's College
Reigate College
Sir John Deane's College
Solihull Sixth Form College
St Brendan's Sixth Form College
St Charles Sixth Form College
St Dominic's Sixth Form College
St Mary's College, Blackburn
Stockton Sixth Form College
Strode's College
The College of Richard Collyer in Horsham
Thomas Rotherham College
Wilberforce College
Woodhouse College
Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College
Wyke College

Supplementary Schools

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1234W, on the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools: finance, what discussions his Department has had on the decision to end funding for the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools in March 2011. [55063]

Mr Gibb: Decisions to end funding for the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools in March 2011 were made and communicated to the Centre under the previous Administration.

The coalition Government have not had discussions about the decision to end this funding with any parties involved.

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1234W, on the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools: finance, what assessment his Department has made of the cost-effectiveness of funding allocated to the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [55064]

Mr Gibb: The Department's Internal Audit Unit has examined how the allocated funding was used by the National Resource Centre to ensure it was being spent for the purposes for which it was awarded. No issues were identified and no other evaluation of the use of this funding has taken place.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy; and if he will make a statement. [52696]

Sarah Teather: We have made clear the importance of local areas continuing to take action to reduce their teenage pregnancy rates, using the international evidence and the lessons from areas where teenage pregnancy rates have fallen fastest. This will make a vital contribution to their local strategies to reduce child poverty and health inequalities and to improve public health.

The Early Intervention Grant provides funding for teenage pregnancy and gives areas the flexibility to co-ordinate their efforts in a way that meets local need. These will be local decisions, but we are confident that areas will recognise the social and economic benefits of continuing to invest in work to reduce teenage pregnancies and improve outcomes for teenage parents and their children.

At a national level, we believe that it is vital that all children receive high-quality sex and relationships education (SRE), so they can make wise and informed choices. We will shortly be announcing the scope of an internal review of PSHE to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching.

Later this year, we will be saying more about teenage pregnancy and sexual health, including improving young people's access and use of contraception, in our proposed Youth Policy Statement and Sexual Health Policy Document. Both these documents will be produced in consultation with stakeholders to ensure they are helpful to local areas and support commissioning of effective services.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to respond to the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group's final report, published on 14 December 2010. [52697]

Sarah Teather: We are grateful to the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group (TPIAG) for its final report. We will be considering the recommendations as we develop our Youth Policy Statement and Sexual Health Policy Document, which will be published later this year.

TREASURY

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43753]

Justine Greening: Details of HM Treasury's notional spending on audit services with the National Audit Office is shown in note 7 'Other administration costs' in each year's Resource Accounts available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Excise Duties: Liquefied Natural Gas

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether industries sourcing liquid natural gas are liable for a different duty rate from industries sourcing other forms of gas. [54786]

Justine Greening: Natural gas is subject to fuel duty at a rate of 24.70 pence per kilogram when intended for use as a road fuel This duty rate applies to natural gas supplied for road use in compressed gaseous form or the denser liquefied form. Gas supplied for all other purposes is free of fuel duty. The import duty rate on all forms of gas is zero.

Natural Gas: Exports

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any tax incentives exist for the export of gas direct from source. [54793]

Justine Greening: There are no tax incentives in the UK oil and gas tax regime that incentivise the export of gas from the UK Continental Shelf over domestic consumption. Companies make decisions on whether to import or export gas based on commercial factors, such as transportation costs and local market prices.

Non-Domestic Rates

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future level of charges on rates for business units that are not in use. [54823]

Mr Gauke: As with all taxes and reliefs HM Treasury keeps the application of business rates to empty property under review.

PAYE: Local Government

Mr Brine: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to take steps to ensure that parish council staff are given adequate training prior to the commencement of registration of council employees under the PAYE system. [54838]

Mr Gauke: HMRC produces a free basic PAYE tool for small employers which contains a calculator that will work out the tax due and includes the forms that the Parish council would need to run their payroll throughout the year and make annual returns. It will also allow the council to file any starter and leaver forms and their annual return on line. The tool is available to download from the Business Link website.

HMRC also offer free workshops at locations throughout the country covering all payroll topics. These are run by HMRC's UK wide network of specially trained Business Education and Support Teams and are designed for everyone especially for new employers.

HMRC has a team of advisers on the New Employer Helpline 08457 143 143 who have been specially briefed to deal with enquiries from Parish councils who need to operate PAYE for the first time.

HMRC's website also provides wide ranging guidance especially for new employers on operating PAYE and information on above and other help available including contact details.

I am aware representative bodies also provide help and guidance to councils and clerks who were not operating PAYE before.

Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average value was of the rebate to an *(a)* employer and *(b)* employee of a private sector contracted-out defined benefit scheme in the latest period for which figures are available; [53069]

(2) if he will estimate the average effect on incomes of public sector employees of the end of contracting out for public sector pension schemes. [52978]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* The data held by Government on the contracting out status of members of defined benefit pension schemes are contained within the National Insurance and PAYE Service (NPS). This data do not differentiate between public and private sector employees and therefore do not provide an indication of the average rebate for each of these sectors.

The level of the contracted-out rebate is currently set at 1.6% for employees and 3.7% for employers. Following the Government Actuary's review of the level of the contracted out rebate, from April 2012 the level of the rebate will be set at 1.4% for employees and 3.4% for employers respectively.

Public Expenditure

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to amend the Green Book so that national well-being is taken into account when evaluating Government policies and projects. [53889]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The Green Book is HM Treasury guidance for central Government on the appraisal and evaluation of all policies, programmes and projects. In addition to the Green Book itself which sets out the overall framework, there is already a range of supplementary guidance with more detail on how to assess the economic welfare or 'well-being' implications of particular types of policy impacts, eg "The Economic and Social Costs of Crime", "Policy Appraisal and Health", and "The Valuation of Ecosystem Services".

This supplementary guidance is continually being expanded and updated to take account of the latest work and research from both within and outside of Government. HMT is currently working with other Government Departments on a number of pieces of new guidance or early stage discussion papers for release later this year. A discussion paper is planned on the potential use of subjective wellbeing measures in Social Cost Benefit Analysis.

Subjective well-being measures look at the effect that a non-market good (such as the environment) has on people's reported overall life satisfaction in order to determine the value of that good. More traditional methods ask people to directly state their willingness to pay for the good, or observe their behaviour in related markets.

These subjective well-being measures are different from measures of national wellbeing. Individual policies are not normally assessed in terms of their influence on national measures such as GDP or national wellbeing because of the difficulty of isolating the effect of one particular policy on such measures. Individual policies are, instead, normally assessed in terms of their 'micro' level costs and benefits or economic welfare effects. National measures may help form part of the wider debate.

Public Sector: Borrowing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the public sector borrowing requirement. [54762]

Danny Alexander: The public sector finances first release published by the Office for National Statistics estimates that the first provisional outturn for public sector net borrowing in 2010-11 is £141.1 billion or 9.6% of GDP. This is £15 billion lower than 2009-10.

In March 2011 the independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecast public sector net borrowing to 2015-16. This forecast is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-march-2011

Renewables Obligation

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements he plans to put in place for the treatment of variable renewable obligation certificate prices when assessed against any overspend by the Department of Energy and Climate Change within the control framework for levy-funded spending. [54818]

Justine Greening: Guidance on how the control framework operates is available on both Treasury and Department for Energy and Climate Change websites. The links to both documents are as follows:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_controlframework_decc.htm

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy/mix/renewable/renewable.aspx

Small Businesses

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average monetary value to *(a)* businesses and *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises of his decision to introduce a moratorium exempting micro-business and start-ups from new domestic regulation for three years with effect from 1 April 2011. [54604]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The Better Regulation Executive report (BRE), "Lightening the Load", assessed the impact of regulation on the UK's smallest businesses and identified that new regulations take the micro-businesses (those with fewer than ten employees) a disproportionate amount of time to interpret and comply with—up to six times longer than a larger business. The moratorium will realise notable time/cost savings for businesses that could be better spent growing their business.

The report, "Lightening the Load", can be found here:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/l/10-1251-lightening-the-load-regulatory-impact-smallest-businesses

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* businesses and *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises (i) nationally, (ii) in each region, (iii) in each local authority and (iv) in each parliamentary constituency expected to be affected by his decision to introduce a moratorium exempting micro-business and start-ups from new domestic regulation for three years with effect from 1 April 2011. [54605]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

There are approximately 4.6 million micro-businesses (fewer than 10 employees) in the UK, representing a fifth of private sector turnover (21%), more than a third of private sector employment (34%) and almost 8 million jobs, who will benefit from this moratorium.

Breakdown of this figure by region/local authority/parliamentary constituency will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

There are also approximately 168,000 small businesses (10-49 employees) and 27,000 medium-sized businesses (50-249 employees) in the UK.

VAT: Insurance

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the maintenance of value added tax exemption for outsourced insurance-related services. [54781]

Mr Gauke: Discussions concerning an EU Commission Proposal that would modernise the VAT exemption for financial and insurance services including the issue of the VAT treatment of outsourcing in the insurance sector have taken place with many UK stakeholders for several years and are continuing.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 12 May 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the reduction in the budget of English Heritage for 2011-12 on its support for archaeology and associated activities. [54887]

John Penrose: English Heritage has made every effort to minimise the effects of the reduction in its budget for 2011-12 on its support for archaeology and associated activities. It has done this by protecting, so far as possible, its advisory services to local authorities, and its listing, scheduling and other designation activities. In addition, it has carried out a root and branch re-organisation of its processes for prioritising resources to understand and protect heritage, and has maintained the National Heritage Commissions Programme, through which it supports the work of others, at the highest possible level.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many businesses based in the London borough of Bexley have obtained contracts from the Olympic Delivery Authority to date. [54841]

Hugh Robertson: As of April 2011 the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) had directly awarded contracts to seven suppliers registered in the London borough of Bexley. These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that tens of thousands more contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains. More information on businesses that have won Games-related contracts can be found at the business section of the London 2012 website:

http://www.london2012.com/business

WALES

Enterprise Zones

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what assessment she has made of the effects on the economy of introducing enterprise zones in Wales; [54926]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the establishment of enterprise zones in Wales. [54927]

Mr David Jones: Economic development is a devolved matter in Wales and any detailed assessment of the impact of enterprise zones on Wales would need to be carried out by the Welsh Assembly Government.

However, it is vital that we give Welsh businesses the same competitive advantages as businesses in places like Bristol and Liverpool, where we have already committed to introducing enterprise zones.

The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), has therefore had initial discussions with the First Minister and has also written to him on two occasions setting out our commitment to work with the Welsh Assembly Government to establish enterprise zones in Wales.

Both my right hon. Friend and I will continue to champion the creation of enterprise zones in Wales with the new Welsh Assembly Government now the Welsh elections have concluded.

Small Businesses

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress the Government have made on introducing tax incentives for small businesses in Wales. [54971]

Mrs Gillan: The Government are committed to providing the necessary support to small businesses in Wales through a number of initiatives, including tax incentives.

We have reduced the small profits rate of Corporation Tax for small companies from 21% to 20%. We have increased the lifetime limit on gains eligible for Entrepreneurs' Relief from £5 million to £10 million, encouraging entrepreneurs who want to expand their businesses and reinvest their gains. We have also extended the current small business rates relief holiday for one year from October 2011.

To encourage investment in businesses with the highest growth potential, we announced a reform of the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Tax scheme. Subject to State aid approval, the rate of income tax relief for EIS will be increased to 30%. We also announced a reform of the R&D tax credits scheme which will see, subject to State aid approval, the SME rate increased to 200% from April 2011 and 225% from April 2012.

The Government have also asked the Office of Tax Simplification to undertake a review examining small business' experience of tax administration and recommending possible reforms ahead of the 2012 Budget.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Attorney-General what plans he has for the future of the Serious Fraud Office; and if he will make a statement. [54916]

The Attorney-General: Decisions have not yet been made on future structures for economic crime. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, in consultation with the Law Officers and other relevant colleagues, is currently considering options for delivering the Government's commitment to take white-collar crime as seriously as other crime.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Attorney-General if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of advice he has received from *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the OECD and other UK or international governmental agencies, *(c)* private organisations and individuals, *(d)* the Director of the Serious Fraud Office and *(e)* others on the future arrangements for (i) investigating and (ii) prosecuting serious financial crimes committed in (A) the UK and (B) by UK citizens or companies abroad. [54917]

The Attorney-General: Officials' advice to Ministers relating to policy advice within Government is covered Under Exemption 2—internal discussion and advice—of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It would therefore not be appropriate to place it in the Library.

The responsibility for releasing any other advice on this issue that may have been submitted to my office by outside organisations or individuals would fall to them to make public should they wish to do so.

JUSTICE

Bill of Rights

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Commission on a Bill of Rights will have powers to take evidence from external parties. [55055]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The terms of reference for the Commission on a Bill of Rights state that the Commission should consult with the public, the judiciary and the devolved Administrations and legislatures. It will be for the Commission to decide what it needs to do in order to fulfil its terms of reference.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the minutes of the meetings of the Commission on a Bill of Rights will be published. [55056]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: It will be for the Commission to determine whether it publishes the minutes of its meetings.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates the Commission on a Bill of Rights is scheduled to meet. [55057]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The dates on which the Commission will meet is a matter for the Commission itself to determine.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the members of the Commission on a Bill of Rights will receive remuneration for their contribution. [55058]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Yes. The members of the Commission will receive remuneration for the work they do to fulfil the Commission's terms of reference.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding has been allocated for the Commission on a Bill of Rights. [55059]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Commission's budget for 2011-12 is £97,500 plus £66,000 for the Commissioners' remuneration. We will expect the Commission to make efficient use of its resources in the light of the constraints imposed by the spending review.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54630]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not held centrally or recorded in a manner that is easily retrievable to provide a full factual reply to this question. It could be obtained only by manually sifting through files and invoices for the last three years at a disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 25 January 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Caroline Woods. [54822]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I apologise for the delay in responding. I will ensure that the right hon. Member receives a reply shortly.

Prison Service: Resignations

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* principal officers, *(b)* senior officers, *(c)* prison officers and *(d)* operational support grades employed at each prison left the Prison Service in the last 12 months. [55004]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of principal officers, senior officers, prison officers and operational support grades employed at each Prison Service establishment within the National Offender Management Service that left between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 is contained in a table I have placed in the House Library.

Information in respect of contracted establishments is provided by individual contractors. Grading structures may vary.

Prisons: Manpower

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the operational staffing requirement was for *(a)* operational managers, *(b)* principal officers, *(c)* senior officers, *(d)* prison officers, *(e)* operational support grades and *(f)* other grades at each prison establishment on 31 March 2011; and what the staff in post figure for each such group was on that date. [55001]

Mr Blunt: Information on the operational staffing requirement for operational managers, principal officers, senior officers, prison officers, operational support grades and all other grades at each prison establishment within the National Offender Management Service on 31 March 2011 is contained in a table I have placed in the House Library.

Information in respect of contracted establishments is provided by individual contractors. Grading structures may vary.

Prisons: Private Sector

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prison custody officers and *(b)* other staff are employed at each private sector prison; what the prison population was at each such prison on 31 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [55005]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of prison custody officers and other staff employed at each private sector prison establishment within the National Offender Management Service on 31 March 2011 is contained in the following table. The table also provides prison population figures for each establishment at the end of March.

Information for contracted establishments is provided by individual contractors.

Prison custody officers, other staff and prison population—private sector establishments—end March 2011

Establishment	*Prison custody officer*	*Other grades*	*Total staff*	*Population*[1]
Altcourse	321	218	539	1,139
Ashfield	146	311	457	357
Bronzefield	145	164	309	522
Doncaster	204	327	531	1,102
Dovegate	262	306	568	1,109
Forest Bank	258	252	510	1,363
Lowdham Grange	212	237	449	935
Parc	305	410	715	1,453
Peterborough	257	228	485	980
Rye Hill	141	115	256	622
Wolds	102	106	208	353
Private sector total	2,353	2,674	5,027	9,935

[1] Population figures are for 25 March 2011

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Libya: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to the public purse has been of aid operations in Libya since February 2011; and what proportion of such aid has been distributed *(a)* through the EU, *(b)* through UN agencies and *(c)* bilaterally. [55018]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed £13.4 million through international humanitarian agencies including the United Nations. This has helped fly home over 12,700 migrant workers from the borders, provided emergency shelter for up to 12,000 people driven out of their homes by the fighting, funded the emergency evacuation of 5,000 people from Misrata, and supplied urgently needed food, medical supplies and medical personnel. DFID has also contributed around £5.25 million through the European Commission (EC). In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has contributed £500,000 to the United Nations Department for Political Affairs for activity to encourage a positive political and stabilisation process in Libya.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided to Palestinian people *(a)* through the EU, *(b)* through UN agencies and *(c)* directly in each of the last three years; and what proportion of such aid went to (i) Palestinian refugees, (ii) Gaza and (iii) the West Bank. [55020]

Mr Duncan: The table shows how much aid the UK has provided to the Palestinian people over the last three years through our imputed share of European Union (EU) aid spending in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs); through UN agencies such as the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), World Food Programme and UN Mines Action Services; and through bilateral programming which includes both financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and various projects across the OPTs,

Our support to Palestinian refugees is provided through UNRWA and helps provide basic services, such as education, health care and social services, to Palestinian refugees across the OPTs, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The figure for UK support to refugees through the EU is estimated from the proportion of EU support to UNRWA relative to its total support to the OPTs.

It is not possible fully to disaggregate UK aid to Gaza and to the West Bank. For example, our financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA), via a World Bank Trust Fund, helps pay for basic services and salaries of public sector workers in both Gaza and the West Bank. The table disaggregates Gaza-specific assistance (such as support for humanitarian and early recovery activity) where it is possible to do so. EU assistance to the OPTs is similarly provided via a variety of instruments, and from the information available it is not possible to disaggregate between Gaza and the West Bank.

		2008	*%*	*2009*	*%*	*2010*	*%*
EU (imputed share)		€64.69 million	—	€72.52 million	—	€51.79 million	—
	Refugees	€10.64 million	16	€23.73 million	33	€9.45 million	18
	Gaza and West Bank	€54.05 million	84	€48.79 million	67	€42.34 million	82
UN Agencies		£19 million	—	£32.88 million	—	£33.73 million	—
	Refugees	£19 million	100	£24.93 million	76	£27 million	80
	Gaza	£0	0	£7.95 million	24	£6.73 million	20
	West Bank	£0	0	£0	0	£0	0
Other support		£59.55 million	—	£47.64 million	—	£57.64 million	—
	Refugees	£0	0	£0	0	£0	0
	Gaza	£2 million	3	£13.45 million	28	£0.90 million	1.5
	West Bank	£0	0	£0	0	£4.4 million	7.5
	West Bank and Gaza	£57.55 million	97	£34.19 million	72	£52.34 million	91

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* ongoing and *(b)* planned (i) research projects and (ii) statistical data collections that have been cancelled or curtailed across Government since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [53908]

Mr Maude: Information on ongoing and planned research projects and statistical data collections that have been cancelled or curtailed across government since May 2010 is not held centrally. However, I understand that the National Statistician has requested that departments inform her of cessations of statistical outputs and of any consultations around statistical outputs and statistical work programmes and that the UK Statistics Authority are monitoring this.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of *(a)* research projects and *(b)* statistical data collections in evaluating the value for money of public spending; and if he will make a statement. [53909]

Mr Maude: The contribution of research projects and statistical data collections in evaluating value for money of public spending is not held centrally.

Newspaper Licensing Agency: Fees

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has paid in fees to *(a)* the Newspaper Licensing Agency and *(b)* the Consumer Licensing Agency in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [55197]

Mr Maude: License fees paid by the Cabinet Office to the *(a)* Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA); and *(b)* Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) for the most recent year for which figures are available were: *(a)* £1,176.40 (exc. VAT) to the NLA for the period November 2009-October 2010; and *(b)* £21,925.00 (exc. VAT) to the CLA for the period July 2009-June 2010.

Sheffield

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many invitations he has received to visit Sheffield in 2011 to date. [52131]

Mr Maude: I have no record of receiving any invitations to visit Sheffield in 2011.

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations he has received from individuals and organisations within the Sheffield City region on the coordination of Government policy and its implications for that region. [52132]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations which is published on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he last visited Sheffield in an official capacity. [52139]

Mr Maude: I have not visited Sheffield in an official capacity since the formation of this Administration on 11 May 2010.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels: Exports

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on research into Britain's capacity to export biofuel overseas in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [53635]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* The Department for Transport has not undertaken research specifically looking at Britain's capacity to export biofuel overseas.

The Renewable Fuels Agency's (RFA) annual reports include a section on the effects of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) in the UK, including impacts of the RTFO on UK business. The RFA annual reports can be found at:

http://www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk/rtfo

In addition, as part of their Renewable Energy Statistics work, Department for Energy and Climate Change completed research in July 2010 on the UK Production of Biofuels for Transport in 2009. This covered UK production capacity and biofuels end markets.

Departmental Responsibilities

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the existing workforce of his Department's Shared Service Centre he expects to be required to run the Centre after its privatisation. [54120]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 760-61W.

Driving Tests

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of changes to the driving test so that the test is taken in two parts and includes a probationary period; and if he will make a statement. [52772]

Mike Penning: Our learning to drive arrangements already provide for people to train in a protected environment using a provisional licence. Also the driving test is already conducted in two parts, a computer-based theory test and a practical driving test. Research indicates that learner car drivers typically take around a year to qualify.

Our policy is to avoid additional regulation whenever possible, and we would be very concerned about imposing any regulation that reduced the mobility of young people who had acquired their full licence, because of the impact that it would have on their participation in the labour market and in further and higher education.

M5: Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what noise mitigation measures for the M5 in Worcestershire the Highways Agency has *(a)* prepared and *(b)* implemented. [53830]

Mike Penning: In 1999 the Highways Agency prepared a list of locations on the motorway and trunk road network in England most seriously affected by noise. The list was published on 11 November 1999, *Official Report*, columns 681-83W. No locations on the M5 in Worcestershire were identified.

The management of noise issues is currently being reviewed as a result of the European environmental noise directive, introduced into UK legislation in October 2006 through the environmental noise regulations. The lead Department for this is the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The regulations require strategic noise maps and action plans to be prepared for urban areas and major roads, railways and airports. The mapping and action plan process is being undertaken on a five year cycle.

DEFRA published noise maps for England's roads on 16 May 2008 and the corresponding noise action plans were formally adopted by the Secretary of State for DEFRA on 15 March 2010. The action plans set out a framework for managing noise rather than propose specific mitigation measures. They have been designed to identify 'Important Areas' that are impacted by noise from major sources and therefore must be investigated. The action plans also require those 'Important Areas' that contain 'First Priority Locations' to be investigated as a priority.

DEFRA is producing maps of Important Areas, identifying those which include First Priority Locations and those which do not. The Highways Agency will examine these locations over the coming years, taking into account current Government policy on noise mitigation and available funding.

There are 10 First Priority Locations in Worcestershire: three between Junctions 4 and 4a, three between Junctions 4a and 5, one between Junctions 5 and 6, two between Junctions 6 and 7 and one between Junctions 7 and 8.

In the present economic climate, the Highways Agency is not able to take action for noise mitigation reasons alone but, whenever resurfacing of its network becomes due as part of the normal maintenance cycle, a material with quiet noise properties is used. No major maintenance schemes are programmed for Worcestershire in the foreseeable future.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment has been made of the effects of the issuing of new vehicle registration documents to stretched limousines which have not passed the single vehicle approval test; [52779]

(2) how many stretched limousines have been issued with a new vehicle registration document that have not previously passed the single vehicle approval test; [52780]

(3) how many stretched limousines issued with a new vehicle registration document have subsequently failed the single vehicle approval test. [52781]

Mike Penning: There are around 7,500 limousines currently on the road. Of these, 175 appear not to have had the evidence required to demonstrate they fully meet the standard provided at the time of their registration. There is no information held on how many of these have since failed a single vehicle approval test.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and local authorities have responsibility for enforcing the standards on construction and use of these vehicles on the road. This includes periodic roadworthiness testing, on-road spot checks, operator licensing compliance and local authority licensing standards where the vehicles are used for hire and reward. These arrangements are considered sufficient to mitigate any road safety risks that may be associated with the use of these 175 vehicles.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to inform the owners of stretched limousines about the requirement to pass the single vehicle approval test. [52782]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not routinely notify owners of the technical construction requirements to be met prior to registering a vehicle in Great Britain. The relevant regulations are publicly available and manufacturers and importers, or their appointed representatives, usually deal with compliance issues before the owner takes delivery of the vehicle.

In the case of stretched limousines, the Department identified a general lack of awareness by importers and issued Guidance for Operators in early 2008. This is available from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/taxis/

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to requiring motorists to display proof of a valid MOT on their vehicles. [52783]

Mike Penning: The benefits of such a requirement would be outweighed by the costs that it would impose. The Police and Vehicle Operator and Services Agency (VOSA) can already determine whether a vehicle has a valid MOT by checking against the MOT database. In addition, a vehicle must have a valid MOT (if required) for its keeper to be issued with a vehicle excise duty disc.

Rescue Services: Milford Haven

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many call outs were received by Milford Haven Coastguard in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [52788]

Mike Penning: The Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Milford Haven co-ordinated responses to the following incidents (those graded as Alert, Distress and Uncertainty):

	Number of incidents
2008	680
2009	770
2010	774

Roads: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of a *(a)* fatality, *(b)* serious injury and *(c)* slight injury caused through an accident involving a vehicle in the last year for which figures are available. [53783]

Mike Penning: The values for preventing fatalities and injuries used by the Department for Transport are published in unit 3.4.1. of its transport appraisal guidance (WebTAG), available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/unit3.4.1.php

Table 3, as follows, presents the components that make up these values. The direct costs to the public purse comprise medical and ambulance costs, and police costs.

Table 3: Average value of prevention of road accidents by severity and element of cost—June 2009

	Casualty related costs			*Accident related costs*			£
Accident severity	*Lost output*	*Medical and ambulance*	*Human costs*	*Police cost*	*Insurance and admin*	*Damage to property*	*Total*
Fatal	596,674	5,615	1,175,101	1,848	291	10,674	1,790,203
Serious	23,767	14,244	161,713	245	181	4,907	205,056
Slight	2,959	1,253	14,090	57	110	2,903	21,372
All injury	13,225	3,055	48,546	105	122	3,270	68,323
Damage only	—	—	—	3	52	1,828	1,883

Roads: Lighting

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the potential *(a)* financial and *(b)* carbon savings of (i) a reduction in the density of lighting on main road and motorway routes and (ii) switching off lighting on sections of main road and motorway routes where there is a good safety record and traffic flows during the night are low. [53578]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency has no plans to reduce the density of lighting (such as turning off every other lamp) on all purpose trunk roads (main roads) or motorways as this can cause patchy lighting and could compromise safety. This can be tiring for motorists and may conceal hazards in the darker patches.

The agency has assessed and implemented switching lighting off between midnight and 5.00am on motorways where there is a good safety record and traffic flows during the night are low. This is delivering up to 40% savings in energy costs and carbon at these locations.

There are no plans to switch off lighting during parts of the night on all purpose trunk roads.

Roads: Safety

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the level of road safety in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* Kent. [54850]

Mike Penning: The Department has made no such assessments. However, local authorities do have a duty under section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to carry out studies into accidents within their area and to take such measures as appear appropriate to prevent such accidents.

HEALTH

Brain: Injuries

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to improve the provision of long-term care and support for those with brain injuries. [55200]

Paul Burstow: Responsibility for commissioning services to meet the needs of those living with brain injuries lies with local heath bodies and, as brain injury rehabilitation services are classed as a specialised service, they are currently commissioned by the 10 regional groups.

Cancer

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce waiting times for cancer treatment. [55308]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: a Strategy for Cancer", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, confirmed that the cancer waiting time standards have been retained within the national health service. These standards are in place to ensure patients with suspected cancer and diagnosed cancer are seen and treated within appropriate time scales.

The standards set out that there should be a maximum wait of 31 days between diagnosis and first definitive treatment for all cancers. The NHS is expected to deliver this in 96% of cases, allowing for patients who do not want to be treated or are unable to be treated within this time scale. In the most recent period for which statistics are available (quarter 3 2010-11), 98.5% of patients received their first definitive treatment within 31 days of diagnosis.

Confectionery: Sugar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the confectionery industry on the sugar content of their products. [55213]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), meets with representatives from the confectionary industry in a wide range of forums.

He has held no discussions recently with the confectionary industry about the sugar content of their products.

London Ambulance Service: Manpower

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* drivers, *(b)* paramedics and *(c)* other staff in the London Ambulance Service were employed to provide services direct to the public on 1 April in each year since 2005. [55198]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table provides the numbers of national health service staff employed in London Ambulance Service NHS Trust by main staff group and by level as at 30 September for each year since 2005.

NHS hospital and community health services: Staff in the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust by main staff group and by level as at 30 September each year

	2005[1]	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[2]
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	3,784	4,112	4,080	4,126	4,719	4,939
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,159	2,425	2,524	2,699	3,144	3,223
Qualified ambulance service staff	1,159	2,425	2,524	2,699	3,144	3,223
Manager	198	93	105	175	194	243
Emergency Care Practitioner	n/a	43	55	53	72	63
Ambulance paramedic	961	984	1,004	1,113	1,588	1,812
Ambulance Technician	n/a	1,305	1,360	1,358	1,290	1,105
Support to clinical staff	2,040	1,007	959	887	968	1,113
Support to ambulance staff	2,040	1,007	959	887	968	1,113
Ambulance personnel	1,403	329	330	404	479	525
Trainee Ambulance Technician	n/a	327	180	40	21	57
Clerical and administrative	297	351	449	443	468	531
Healthcare assistant	242	0	0	0	0	0
Trainee ambulance personnel	98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NHS infrastructure support	585	680	597	540	607	604
Central functions	270	334	282	262	285	374
Clerical and administrative	270	334	282	262	285	374
Hotel, property and estates	73	89	85	80	88	91
Clerical and administrative	2	5	6	4	2	8
Estates (maintenance and works)	69	84	79	76	86	83
Support worker	2	0	0	0	0	0
Managers and senior managers	242	257	230	198	234	139

NHS hospital and community health services: Staff in the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust by main staff group and by level as at 30 September each year

	2005[1]	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010[2]
Senior manager	29	47	48	56	72	48
Manager	213	210	182	142	162	91

n/a = Not applicable. See note 1.

[1] In 2006 ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes. As a result, qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.

[2] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication here: www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf

Notes:

It is impossible to separately identify those staff who were 'employed to provide services direct to the public' from the census data. It is assumed that all staff who are not in the 'NHS Infrastructure Support' staff group have some contact with patients or the public.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census.

London Ambulance Service: Redundancy

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many redundancies the London Ambulance Service plans to make from each category of job in 2011-12. [55199]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. The right hon. Member may wish to contact the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust for the information requested.

Medical Treatments: VAT

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to inform those in receipt of disability benefits that they are entitled to buy medical products at zero rate value added tax. [52763]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

Our Award Notices do not mention benefits or other schemes. Leaflet DLA 95 covers these at pages 6 and 7 (a copy is held in the Library). The leaflet also contains links to the "Direct Government" website, which provides further information.

NHS: Drugs

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to monitor the implementation of the recommendations in "Best Practice for Ensuring the Efficient Supply and Distribution of Medicines to Patients", published by his Department in February 2011. [55013]

Mr Simon Burns: "Best Practice for Ensuring the Efficient Supply and Distribution of Medicines to Patients" was published in February jointly by the Medicines Supply Chain Group. The Department carefully monitors data about supply problems to see if patients are being harmed because of delays in the supply of medicines.

NHS: Procurement

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the NHS plans to spend on procurement in each year from 2012 to 2015; [54929]

(2) how much the NHS spent on medical supplies and equipment in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [54930]

(3) what plans he has to review best practice for procurement in the NHS; [54931]

(4) what steps his Department takes to evaluate NHS contracts for supply and delivery of medical supplies and equipment for best value; and if he will make a statement. [54932]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2009-10, the latest year for which figures are available, the national health service spent approximately £37 billion with external suppliers on the procurement of goods and services, of which £16.5 billion is spent by NHS providers (NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts). This £16.5 billion comprises a number of different expenditure categories such as drugs, non-clinical supplies and services, transport and establishment, all of which may include elements of medical supplies and equipment, but the category "clinical supplies and services" will cover most of the purely medical supplies and associated equipment purchased by NHS providers. Expenditure in this particular category for 2009-10 was £4.5 billion.

In future years NHS providers will continue to be free to make their own procurement decisions from within their own budgets. However, efficiencies across the NHS in the region of £15-20 billion by the end of 2013-14 are required under the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention initiative which includes projected efficiency savings of £1.2 billion from procurement by the end of 2013-14. To achieve this the Department has a comprehensive procurement strategy in place based around three key work strands of greater transparency on pricing; promoting and improving the national collaborative bodies such as NHS Supply Chain; and product standardisation and rationalisation.

The National Audit Office published a report on its review of procurement by NHS providers in February 2011. The Department agreed with most of their recommendations, and which are already being addressed by these work strands.

The Department does not make assessments of individual NHS contracts. The role of the Department is on making the tools and information available for the NHS to make the best procurement decisions. All NHS bodies must follow their Standing Financial Instructions to ensure that any contracts entered into are value for money and comply with any legal requirements.

Patient Records: Data Loss

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place in NHS hospitals to protect patient records from data loss. [55207]

Mr Simon Burns: The security of patient records is a local responsibility and each national health service body is legally responsible for holding information securely. However, the Department provides comprehensive policy, guidance and supporting tools for security compliance to NHS bodies, including centrally-funded training resources.

The Department has also provided electronic patient record systems that are protected by the highest levels of access controls and other security measures, a secure NHS network for exchanging information that is centrally monitored and strongly protected, and secure NHS e-mail facilities that encrypt all data in transit within the system.

Radiotherapy

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 127W, on radiotherapy, for what reason the national radiotherapy dataset was not published as proposed in April 2011; and when his Department expects to publish the dataset. [55302]

Paul Burstow: Release of the radiotherapy dataset is governed by the Radiotherapy Clinical Information Group (RCIG). The RCIG has decided to produce a report on the dataset collection for 2009-10, which is due for publication in June.

The RCIG is also planning to release the full dataset via the cancer commissioning toolkit (CCT) by the end of year. The CCT gives commissioners access to high quality data about cancer services across the treatment pathway and allows trusts to benchmark their performance against one another.

St Helens and Knowsley Health Authority

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the North West Strategic Health Authority has proposed the tendering of the management of the St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust in the course of its discussions with the Trust on a tripartite agreement. [55023]

Mr Simon Burns *[holding answer 10 May 2011]:* As stated in my reply to the hon. Member for St Helens North (Mr Watts) of 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 857-58W, the North West Strategic Health Authority has undertaken discussions with St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals National Health Service Trust regarding its progress towards achieving foundation trust status, and did raise a number of options for the trust's long-term future. These ranged from a successful application in their own right including resolution of the private finance initiative issue, a partnership with one or more national health service organisations and finally, if all other options were unsuccessful, a public/private partnership. This final option would only be for management with all NHS staff and assets remaining wholly owned by the NHS.

None of these options have yet been agreed as the Tripartite Formal Agreement remains in draft and is being discussed with the Department. When it has been finalised and the agreement has been signed by all parties, the trust will publish the agreement on their website.

Trauma: Health Services

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that best practice in trauma care learnt in Afghanistan is applied in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [55131]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 196W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Colchester (Rob Russell).

EDUCATION

Children in Care: Standards

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve the standard of children's homes. [54396]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* In September 2010 I launched a new sector-led support and challenge programme for children's homes. The aim of this programme is to support the sector itself in developing and sharing evidence of effective practice so that children and young people in children's homes receive the best possible care.

A range of activities is now under way, in close collaboration with local authorities, independent children's homes providers, Ofsted and leading researchers in the field. These include analysing data about children's homes, working with areas which have high concentrations of children's homes to identify features of good and poor practice and commissioning research about the characteristics and needs of the workforce in children's homes. The Department for Education is working closely with partners in the sector to make sure that the learning from this work is shared as widely as possible to support service improvement.

Revised and streamlined regulations, guidance and National Minimum Standards for children's homes came into effect in April 2011. These emphasise the importance of delegating decision making as much and as clearly as possible to children's homes staff, so that they are able to offer children the personal support they need.

Children: Protection

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take in response to the recommendations of the Munro Review of Child Protection. [55032]

Tim Loughton: Professor Eileen Munro published the findings of her independent review of child protection, "A Child Centred System" on 10 May 2011. Professor Munro's recommendations are wide-ranging and look at how to re-focus the child protection system on meeting the needs of the child, rather than complying with prescriptive rules and targets.

I welcome Professor Munro's thorough analysis of the issues. It is important that we consider carefully, with professionals themselves, how best to respond to her proposals to bring about the radical, long-term reform needed. I have therefore announced that an implementation working group drawing together key individuals from the social work profession, local government, health, police, education and the voluntary sector will be formed. The Government will work closely with this group to develop a full response to Professor Munro's recommendations before the summer recess.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors spent on hospitality for journalists and members of media organisations in each year between 2005 and 2010. [54542]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold expenses data to the level requested by the hon. Member as we gather expenditure details under a general hospitality account code. Therefore the information required is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs. However, I can confirm that the Department for Children, Schools and Families held an annual Christmas reception for journalists and media organisations at an approximate cost of £500 per year.

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54560]

Tim Loughton: The Department is still in the process of working through the details on the level of work force needed to deliver the coalition Government's education agenda in future years and therefore is not in a position to comment on the amount it will spend on staff pensions in each of the next five years.

Details of staff pension costs to the Department are published annually within the Resource Accounts and available on the Department's website. Information on costs for the last financial year (2010-11) will be available after the first week of July 2011:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmental information/reports/a00390/annual-departmental-reports-accounts-and-spending-reviews

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of young people who will receive funding from the 16 to 19 bursary fund in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [53117]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 May 2011]:* Around 320,000 young people will receive guaranteed support in the 2011-12 academic year as a result of the measures we announced on 28 March 2011. This includes those who will receive weekly payments under the transitional arrangements, and the estimated 12,000 young people who may be eligible each year for a guaranteed annual bursary of £1,200. Beyond this, the 16-19 bursary fund is discretionary and decisions as to who will be supported and to what level will be made by schools, colleges and training organisations.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the average annual payment to recipients of education maintenance allowance eligible for payment at £30 per week was in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; [54288]

(2) how many and what proportion of recipients of education maintenance allowance received less than £800 a year in the last year for which figures are available; [54284]

(3) what the average number of weekly payments was to recipients of education maintenance allowance in the last year for which figures are available; [54283]

(4) what the average annual payment was to recipients of education maintenance allowance in the most recent year for which figures are available; [54282]

(5) what the average number of weekly payments was to recipients of education maintenance allowance who were eligible for the top rate of £30 per week in the last year for which figures are available. [54281]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he has allocated for the provision of top-up bursaries to students in receipt of education maintenance allowance who will receive a smaller or no award in 2011-12. [53652]

Mr Gibb: A total of £115.5 million will be allocated in the academic year 2011-12 to schools, colleges and training providers for discretionary bursaries. This will allow schools, colleges and training providers to: pay guaranteed bursaries to young people in vulnerable groups; pay discretionary bursaries to young people starting courses in 2011-12; and to provide 'top up' support from the discretionary fund to young people covered by the education maintenance allowance transitional arrangements where necessary. The amounts paid under each of these categories will depend on local circumstances.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether people in receipt of a 16-19 education bursary will be able to have their payment paid directly into a bank account; and what discussions he has had with representatives of banks on the scheme. [54012]

Mr Gibb: Under our proposed arrangements for the 16-19 bursary fund, schools, colleges and training providers will have discretion to make arrangements for paying bursaries to students in ways that best fit individual needs and circumstances.

We are consulting on the details of the bursary fund and will work with the Association of Colleges, Sixth Form Colleges Forum and others to consider the arrangements, including the handling of cashless payment systems. The Department has not held any discussions with representatives of banks relating to the scheme.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the continuation of bursary funding in 2012-13 for those in the second year of study. [54720]

Mr Gibb: The most vulnerable young people will be eligible to receive a bursary of £1,200, regardless of which year of study they are in. In all other cases schools, colleges and training providers will be able to exercise their discretion to award 16-19 bursaries to young people in ways that best fit local needs and circumstances, including determining the approach that should be taken to young people in their second year of study.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether local authorities will be required to provide data to further education and sixth form colleges to enable them to assess the eligibility for discretionary learner support and bursaries of 16-year-olds applying to enrol at an institution in September 2011 in respect of students *(a)* in receipt of free school meals in year 11, *(b)* from a household with a low income, *(c)* in care and *(d)* in receipt of income support. [54880]

Mr Gibb: We will not require local authorities to provide data to further education and sixth form colleges in respect of young people's eligibility for the new 16-19 bursary fund. We will provide guidance to schools, colleges and training providers regarding the kind of evidence they might wish to seek from young people claiming a guaranteed £1,200 bursary. Beyond that, schools, colleges and training providers will be able to exercise their discretion to award bursaries to young people—including those who were in receipt of free school meals in year 11—in ways that best fit their needs and circumstances.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with banks on provision of bank accounts for 16-year-olds who are to receive bursaries. [54881]

Mr Gibb: We have had no discussions with banks on the provision of bank accounts for 16-year-olds who are to receive bursaries. Arrangements for young people to open bank accounts were discussed at the time of the introduction of the education maintenance allowance and are unchanged by the announcement of the 16-19 bursary fund. Young people aged 16 are able to open a basic bank account, which is offered by 16 members of the British Bankers Association. This account will allow for receipt of the bursary, including by cashless means, and will allow funds to be withdrawn via ATMs as well as via standing orders and direct debits where necessary. In the summer of 2011 the Money Advice Service will be publishing an interactive tool on their website which will allow young people to find out the forms of identification that are accepted by each bank offering the basic bank account.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what mechanism he expects schools to transfer funds to students in respect of 16-19 bursaries. [55039]

Mr Gibb: Under our proposed arrangements for the 16-19 bursary fund, schools, colleges and training providers will have discretion to award bursaries to students in ways that best meet individual needs and circumstances.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements his Department plans to put in place to facilitate the transfer of funding for 16 -19 bursaries to schools and colleges. [55040]

Mr Gibb: The Young People's Learning Agency will make allocations for the 16-19 bursary fund to schools, colleges and training providers following the end of the formal consultation on the new arrangements, which includes a question on the proposed methodology for allocating the funding. The consultation closes on 20 May 2011.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures his Department plans to put in place to evaluate the 16-19 bursary scheme. [55046]

Mr Gibb: Currently schools, colleges and training providers with an allocation of discretionary learner support funds are required to provide management information to the Young People's Learning Agency. We expect that this arrangement will continue for the 16-19 bursary fund, allowing us to monitor its introduction. In addition we are considering how best to evaluate the impact of the new arrangements.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to issue guidance to colleges and schools on implementation of the proposed 16-19 bursary scheme. [55047]

Mr Gibb: The Young People's Learning Agency, who will be responsible for the operation of the new 16-19 bursary fund, will issue short, focused guidance to schools, colleges and training providers after the end of the formal consultation on the new arrangements.

Free School Meals

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what evidence of demand for school places his Department requires to be submitted by schools wishing to be approved as free schools. [54228]

Mr Gibb: The criteria for assessing the evidence of demand in a free school application are set out in the 'how to apply' form, which is available on the Department's website at:

http://education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/freeschools/a0074965/applying-to-become-a-free-school

Further Education: Inspections

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what basis he would request an inspection of a *(a)* further education and *(b)* sixth form college which is judged outstanding by Ofsted under the powers proposed in clause 41 of the Education Bill. [53118]

Mr Gibb: The power proposed in clause 41 of the Education Bill exists across a number of inspection remits. There is a similar power in respect of school inspections, boarding welfare inspections and education inspections of independent schools. The power has been used extremely rarely in relation to schools and we envisage that it will only be used in exceptional circumstances for colleges. We expect this to be in cases where, for example, the Secretary of State has significant concerns about an institution.

Music: Education

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the music grant beyond 2012. [53267]

Mr Gibb: The Government will announce the future of music funding when we publish the National Plan for Music Education later this year.

Pupils: Work Experience

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department is providing for the administration associated with arranging work experience placements for secondary school students. [54825]

Mr Gibb: In future, in line with our policy of giving greater autonomy to schools, it should be up to schools to determine whether and how work experience is provided.

Schools: Sports

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools received funding from his Department for the promotion of schools sports in Wells constituency in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what the type of school was in each such case. [55049]

Tim Loughton: All maintained schools in the Wells constituency received additional funding for PE and sport in both 2009-10 and 2010-11. These schools are listed by school type in the following table.

School type	School name
Primary schools	Axbridge C of E First
	Baltonsborough C of E Primary
	Berrow C of E Primary
	Binegar C of E Primary
	Bowlish Infant
	Brent Knoll C of E Primary
	Brookside Community Primary
	Burnham on Sea Infant
	Butleigh C of E Primary
	Cheddar First
	Chewton Mendip C of E Primary
	Churchfield C of E VC Primary
	Coxley Primary
	Croscombe C of E Primary
	Draycott and Rodney Stoke C of E First
	East Brent C of E First
	Elmhurst Junior
	Hindhayes Infant
	Horrington Primary
	Lympsham C of E First
	Mark C of E First
	Meare Village Primary
	Oakhill C of E Primary
	Priddy Primary
	Shepton Mallet Infant
	Shipham C of E First
	St Andrew's C of E Junior
	St Benedict's C of E Junior
	St Cuthbert's C of E Infant
	St John's C of E Infant
	St Joseph & St Teresa Catholic Primary
	St Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery
	St Lawrence's C of E Primary
	St Paul's C of E Junior
	St Vigor & St John C of E Primary
	Stoberry Park
	Walton C of E Primary
	Weare C of E First
	Wedmore First
	Wells Central C of E Junior
	West Pennard C of E Primary
	Wookey Primary
Pupil referral units	Mendip Centre
Middle schools	Fairlands
	Hugh Sexey
Secondary schools	Blue
	Crispin
	King Alfred Sports College
	Kings of Wessex Community
	St Dunstan's Community
	Whitstone
Special schools	Avalon

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what constitutes a severe disability for the purposes of assessing the award of a 16-19 bursary; and whether colleges will be expected to verify receipt of disability living allowance in determining an award. [53650]

Mr Gibb: Disabled young people who are in receipt of income support will be eligible to receive a guaranteed bursary of £1,200. Other disabled young people will be able to apply for a bursary from their school or college. We are consulting on the details of the new arrangements and will work with the Association of Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges Forum and others to consider how schools, colleges and training providers might identify those students who would benefit from support under the proposed arrangements.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to question 53332, on the bursary fund in the North East, tabled on 21 April 2011 for answer on 27 April 2011. [55070]

Mr Gibb: A response was issued to the hon. Member on 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 966W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime: Drugs

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged with possession of class (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C drugs in each police force area in each year since 1997. [53419]

James Brokenshire: The number of arrests for "drug offences" is published within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Police Powers and Procedures'. It is not possible to separately identify what class of drugs these arrests were for. Convictions are published by the Ministry of Justice in their 'Criminal Statistics' publication. Current and previous copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House.

Driving Offences

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many roadside checks for *(a)* speed, *(b)* use of seat belts and child restraints, *(c)* vehicle safety and roadworthiness and *(d)* driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs each police force carried out in each of the last 12 months. [53485]

James Brokenshire: In relation to parts *(a)* to *(c)* of the question and drug testing of part *(d)*, these data are not collected. The number of breath tests conducted as well as the number of Vehicle Defect rectification scheme notices issued by the police is published as part of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Police Powers and Procedures'. Current and previous copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House.

Police: Prison Accommodation

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions her Department has used police cells to hold immigrants in each police force area in each year since 1997; and what the average rate paid per night by her Department to each police force for the use of such accommodation was in each such year. [53516]

Damian Green: Information on the number of occasions in which immigrants have been held in police cells during the period 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2010 is shown in Table 1 to be placed in the House Library. The rates at which the various police authorities charged the UK Border Agency for the use of police cells during the 2010-11 financial year are shown in Table 2. Historic costs are not readily available and it would involve disproportionate costs to establish them.

All those that are arrested on suspicion of an immigration offence, i.e. have not already been served immigration papers, are to be taken to a designated PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence) custody suite. The agency would normally only use police cells for one night, with a normal maximum of two nights. In exceptional cases a detainee may spend up to five nights continuously in a police cell (seven nights if removal directions have been set within 48 hours) if, for instance, the individual is awaiting transfer to more suitable UK Border Agency or Prison Service accommodation and the police are content to maintain detention.

Table 2: Police authority charge rates for police cells 2010-11

Police authority	*Charges per 24 hrs (£)*
South Yorkshire	350.00
Humberside	329.80
North Yorkshire	266.31
Durham	303.00
Cleveland	111.00
West Yorkshire	240.00
Northumbria	301.40
Merseyside	300.00
Greater Manchester	342.00
Lancashire	130.00
Cumbria	110.00
Cheshire	124.00
South Wales	280.00
Gwent	250.00
Dyfed Powys	280.00
North Wales	330.00
Dorset	463.00
Avon and Somerset	190.00
Wiltshire	463.00
Devon and Cornwall	409.00
Gloucester	110.00
Bedfordshire	189.10
Cambridgeshire	210.58
Derbyshire	347.44
Essex	251.93
Hertfordshire	268.82
Leicestershire	319.47
Lincolnshire	516.42
Northamptonshire	747.83
Norfolk	100.35
Nottinghamshire	494.16
Staffordshire	341.84
Suffolk	68.39
Warwickshire	536.32
West Mercia	800.79
West Midlands	803.46
British Transport Police	350.00
Hampshire police	300.00
Hertfordshire police	110.00
Kent police	420.65
Metropolitan police	508.00
Surrey police	700.00
Sussex police	750.00

Table 2: Police authority charge rates for police cells 2010-11

Police authority	*Charges per 24 hrs (£)*
Thames Valley police	414.11
All Scottish authorities	250.00

Prevent Review

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish her review of the Prevent strategy. [54879]

Mrs May: A thorough and detailed review was required to ensure that Prevent works as well as possible. The review and new strategy will be published shortly.

Visas: Kunai Doshi

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to decide on the application for a long stay visa from Mr Kunai Doshi, case reference number D1145300. [55285]

Damian Green: Given the personal nature of this inquiry and public nature of the response, I am unable to divulge any details of the individual case. If my hon. Friend would like to write to me on this matter, I would be willing to respond in a more substantive manner.

TREASURY

Apprentices

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely number of work experience places he expects to be created in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in each of the next four years, following his decision to fund an additional 80,000 work experience places; and how many work experience places in total he expects there to be in each such case in each such year. [54603]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has not set expectations for, or determined likely volumes of Work Experience placements by locality. Jobcentre Plus District Managers will assess, on an ongoing basis, the requirement for placements in their locality based on customer needs and the local labour market. The Department plans to publish official statistics for the number of starts for work experience placements. This is expected to be from autumn 2011 enabling us to ensure that our statistics are accurate and robust and that we adhere to the guidelines set by the UKSA.

Child Tax Credit: Overseas Residence

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in child tax credits to people domiciled outside the UK in each of the last three years. [55068]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 5 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 914W.

Economic Situation

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of a double-dip recession. [54893]

Danny Alexander: The UK returned to positive growth in the first quarter of this year. The Government have always been clear that the recovery will be choppy, but the independent Office for Budget Responsibility and all other credible forecasters, including NIESR released just last week, are very clear that the UK recovery will continue.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Mr Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received regarding the decision not to distinguish between providers and intermediaries in respect of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme interim levy fee; and if he will make a statement. [53685]

Mr Hoban: The Government receive representations on various issues from a wide range of stakeholders. Rules governing the levies imposed on members of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme are made by the Financial Services Authority, which is independent of the Government

Financial Stability Board: Investments

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has made to the Financial Stability Board on exchange traded funds; [55134]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the regulatory framework in the London markets in respect of exchange traded funds. [55135]

Mr Hoban: The Government are aware of the recent developments in the exchange traded funds industry and is working closely with the FSA and Bank of England to analyse the risks associated with these products.

The Financial Stability Board has carried out analysis of the exchange traded funds market at the request of its members. The UK is a member of the Financial Stability Board and is supportive of further analysis in this area.

Fuels: Prices

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 724-5W, on fuels: prices, if he will publish the pump price data collected by his Department. [55136]

Justine Greening: Energy price statistics including weekly fuel prices are published by the Government under the statistics tab of the Department of Energy and Climate Change's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/

Open source data is also available from:

www.petrolprices.com

Members: Correspondence

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight of 8 April 2011, ref. 1/91445/2011. [53936]

Justine Greening: HMRC plans to reply to the hon. Member on or before 16 May 2011 on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Pensions: Private Sector

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people were contracted *(a)* in and *(b)* out of defined benefit pension schemes in 2010. [53068]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 28 April 2011]:* There are estimated to be 26.6 million jobs in the UK. The number of employees that are members of contracted out defined benefit pension schemes is 6.8 million or around 25% of employees. The number of individuals that are not members of contracted out defined benefit schemes is 19.8 million or around 75%.

Pensions: Public Sector

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the savings to the Exchequer of ending contracting out for defined-benefit public sector pension schemes. [52977]

Danny Alexander: The contracted-out rebate for defined benefit pension schemes was worth £7.3 billion in 2008-09 (based on data from the NPS).

NPS data do not differentiate between public and private sector employees and as such a precise estimate on the savings attributable to either group cannot be made.

However, HM Treasury estimates that there are currently around 5.3 million active members of defined benefit pension schemes employed within the public sector.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that his proposals for electricity market reform support energy efficiency measures. [54368]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to encouraging and incentivising energy efficiency within the home, in the public and private sectors. DECC is already rolling out energy efficient measures through the Green Deal, the Carbon Reduction Commitment, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programmes (CESP), among others.

DECC is currently developing a White Paper which will set out proposals for the UK's electricity market reform (EMR). The EMR is a package of policies which will complement and interact with existing policy including those which incentivise using energy efficiently. In developing the White Paper, we are considering views raised in response to the EMR consultation on demand-side issues.

Fossil Fuels

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of UK energy was generated from fossil fuels in each year since 2008. [55457]

Charles Hendry: The percentage of UK electricity generated from fossil fuels in each year since 2008 is shown in the following table:

	Percentage
2008	79.7
2009	73.7
2010[1]	76.0

[1] Provisional

Fuel Poverty: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Sunderland he estimates were living in fuel poverty in 2009-10. [55429]

Gregory Barker: In 2008, the latest year for which data is available, the number of households living in fuel poverty in the Sunderland local authority was estimated to be around 24,400. This is equivalent to around 20.6% of households in Sunderland.

Meters

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the framework for the procurement of the first generation of communication and data service contracts for the development of smart meters will be prepared; and what process that preparation will entail. [55458]

Charles Hendry: The strategy for the procurement of first-generation DCC service providers is currently being prepared by my officials in DECC, with input from stakeholders and from Infrastructure UK, who have expertise in large-scale public sector procurement. We intend to complete the strategy and begin the procurement process as soon as practicable. We will set out further details of the process and the timetable for the procurement process when we are in a position to do so.

Oil: Refineries

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects of his proposed floor price for carbon on the operating costs of companies in the oil refining industry. [53998]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

An assessment of the impacts of the carbon price floor is given in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

Warm Front Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of households previously on the waiting list for the Warm Front scheme who are no longer eligible for the Warm Front scheme under the eligibility criteria from April 2011. [55339]

Gregory Barker: All successful applications on the waiting list before the scheme stopped accepting applications in December 2010 will be serviced.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Citizenship Survey

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received on the Citizenship Survey. [54911]

Andrew Stunell: The summary report on the consultation on this issue, and the associated consultation responses, can be found online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/csconsultresponses

The Department has also received a letter from the UK Statistics Authority. I am placing a copy of the Department's reply to the letter in the Library of the House.

First Time Buyers

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the FirstBuy scheme in assisting first-time buyers. [55195]

Grant Shapps: FirstBuy will help 10,000 prospective first time buyers purchase new build homes over the next two years in England. Housebuilders will match fund the Government's investment, to provide a 20% equity loan which can be used towards a deposit. This will help-first time buyers to enter the housing market, support the construction industry, create new jobs and increase the pace of economic growth. We expect the first homes to be available in the summer.

Historic Buildings: Planning Permission

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he has placed a requirement on any local planning authority (LPA) to supply in default professional advice in connection with heritage advice to another LPA as authorised under paragraph 7 of schedule 4 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; [55065]

(2) on how many occasions he has used his powers under paragraph 7 of schedule 4 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. [55066]

Robert Neill: We have no record of any Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government ever invoking his or her powers under paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Local Government Finance

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the membership of the Local Government Resource Review working group is; what remuneration each member of the group will receive; and how frequently he expects the group to meet; [55336]

(2) what the membership is of the Local Government Resource Review technical group; what remuneration each member of the group will receive; and how frequently he expects the group to meet. [55335]

Robert Neill: The Terms of Reference of the Local Government Resource Review made clear that we would conduct extensive engagement with interested parties. As part of this process, external working groups have been set up to help inform the work of the review, and we continue to welcome representations.

The Business Organisation working group includes, or has invited, representatives from the following organisations:

Association of Convenience Stores
British Chambers of Commerce
British Council of Shopping Centres
British Property Federation
British Retail Consortium
Confederation of British Industry
Federation of Small Businesses
London First
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

The local authority working group includes, or has invited, representatives from the following organisations:

Association of Chief Police Officers
Association of Police Authorities
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Core Cities
Fire Finance Network
Greater London Authority
Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation
London Councils
Local Government Association
Society of County Treasurers
Society of District Council Treasurers
Society of Municipal Treasurers
Society of Unitary Treasurers
Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities.

The local authority technical working group includes, or has invited, Chris Bilsland, Paul Dale, Will Godfrey, Hugh Grover, Stephen Hughes, Margaret Lee, Sean Nolan, and David Smith, who provide advice on a personal and independent basis rather than representing specific bodies.

These working groups meet as and when required, and members receive no remuneration.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Local Government Resource Review. [55337]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), has regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne) and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) and other Cabinet colleagues on a range of issues, including the Local Government Resource Review.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association, *(b)* Liverpool city council, *(c)* the North West Development Agency, *(d)* the Merseyside Local Enterprise Partnership, *(e)* the Core Cities Group and *(f)* the Federation of Small Businesses on the Local Government Resource Review. [55338]

Robert Neill: Ministers and officials have regular discussions with representatives of local government, business and other interested organisations on the Local Government Resource Review. We continue to welcome any further representations to help inform our work.

The first phase of the review will conclude in July when we will consult on the Government's proposals, providing an opportunity for the mentioned groups to make representations and provide their feedback.

Waste Disposal

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on reducing and preventing municipal waste. [52956]

Robert Neill: My Department works closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on these issues and the ongoing Waste Review.

Last year my Department moved to revoke guidance which pressured councils to introduce fortnightly rubbish collections.

On 11 April 2011, both Departments sent a joint letter to local authorities clarifying the legal position on backdoor bin charging. I have placed a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to question 51594 on former regional development agency assets, tabled on 1 April 2011 for answer on 5 April 2011. [55071]

Robert Neill: Question 51594 was answered on 10 May 2011.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Elephant Poaching: Africa

15. **Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking through international organisations to tackle the poaching of elephants in central and west Africa. [55101]

Richard Benyon: As a party to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) the UK supports its efforts to maintain or enhance countries' enforcement capabilities. Next week, the UK will be participating in a CITES-organised rhino and elephant enforcement task force meeting which will exchange intelligence reports and methodologies and develop strategies to tackle the illegal trade in both animals across their ranges.

River Ecology

16. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to improve the water quality and ecology of rivers in England. [55102]

Richard Benyon: The measures we will take to prevent deterioration and improve the ecological status of all water bodies (including rivers) in England by 2015 are set out in River Basin Management Plans.

An approach to engage local communities to develop improvement plans is being piloted and will be supported by over 8,500 investigations into specific issues and an additional £92 million over the next four years to fund action to tackle them.

Private Sewers

17. **Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made on transferring the ownership of private sewers to statutory sewerage companies. [55103]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA continues to work closely with water and sewerage companies and other interested parties in preparation for the proposed transfer of private sewers. Draft regulations to effect the transfer were laid before Parliament on 26 April. Subject to the regulations being approved, the transfer is proposed to take place on 1 October this year.

Uplands Review

18. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on her Department's uplands review. [55104]

Mr Paice: Let me thank the hon. Member and the Committee she chairs for highlighting the importance of uplands.

We have received numerous positive reactions from a wide range of stakeholders to the conclusions of the uplands policy review, which was announced on 10 March.

The value and potential of our uplands have been overlooked for too long and this is the beginning, not the end of this Government's commitment to the uplands.

Bovine Tuberculosis

19. **Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to announce measures to tackle the spread of bovine tuberculosis. [55105]

Mr Paice: We will announce a comprehensive and balanced TB Eradication Programme for England shortly. This is a complex and sensitive issue and we received a large number of responses to our consultation, which we have been considering carefully.

As I told the NFU conference in February we must ensure that we have clear and practical solutions to the issues which were raised, failing which we may not proceed.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public sector job reduction targets have been set for her Department and its non-departmental public bodies for each of the next 24 months; and what steps she plans to take to meet such targets. [51524]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not have "job reduction targets". We have committed to reducing our administration costs across the Department and its non-departmental public bodies by 33% by the end of the current spending review period.

To achieve this we are looking first to save as much as possible from non-pay costs, including significant reductions in the use of consultants, operational savings in IT and estates and other non pay costs.

We have operated a freeze on external recruitment since 25 May 2010, and have made a commitment to avoid compulsory redundancies wherever possible. We are therefore aiming to achieve the cost reduction required through normal staff turnover, voluntary exits, then voluntary redundancies wherever possible.

We are currently running a departmental voluntary exit scheme. Following the departures from this round of exits we will need to re-assess the position and savings we have achieved before taking decisions on next steps.

DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies are managing their own staff exit schemes.

EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 785W, on the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement, whether the information submitted to the European Commission by the Moroccan authorities distinguished between benefit to the indigenous Saharawi population and benefit to Moroccan settlers. [55076]

Richard Benyon: The information submitted by the Moroccan authorities was not broken down to the level of individual recipients and it is therefore not possible to make such an analysis.

Floods: Insurance

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the future flood insurance models she is considering for implementation following the end of the Statement of Principles in 2013. [55340]

Richard Benyon: A working group which includes representatives from the Government, the Environment Agency, the insurance industry and other organisations is looking at a range of potential flood insurance models for the future.

These discussions include the role that specialist brokers can play in helping people at high flood risk to access insurance, the potential role of local authorities, and various pooling arrangements for flood risk. Further details on the models that have been considered to date will be provided in the working group's interim report, which is due to be published shortly.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether her Department has made an assessment of the effect of inability to obtain home and business flood insurance on the domestic and business property markets in areas where flood defence schemes have been postponed; [55350]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the availability of flood insurance in areas where flood defence schemes have been postponed. [55351]

Richard Benyon: The three working groups that were established after last year's Flood summit are examining this and other questions about flood insurance and risk reduction, with a view to establishing a roadmap beyond 2013 when the current Statement of Principles ends.

The existing statement commits insurers to continue to offer insurance to existing customers where they are at significant risk and where there are plans in place to reduce that risk within five years.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has established any criteria for flood insurance for the new flood insurance framework after 2013. [55352]

Richard Benyon: A working group which includes representatives from the Government, the Environment Agency, the insurance industry and other organisations is looking at a range of potential flood insurance models for the future, and has agreed a set of common principles for how a future model should function. Any potential models will be assessed against these criteria. The criteria will be set out in the working group's interim report, which is due to be published shortly.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Arms Control

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to monitor the *(a)* supply of arms to and *(b)* use of arms by militia and other non-state groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [55030]

Mr Bellingham: The UK is a strong supporter of the UN arms embargo and other measures to restrict the supply of arms to militias operating in the country. The arms embargo was renewed on 30 November 2009 under UN Resolution 1896. This resolution also backed a sanctions regime to provide for measures against individuals or entities supporting illegal armed groups.

Under UN Resolution 1896, the Group of Experts is mandated to investigate breaches of the arms embargo and support to illegal armed groups. The Group of Experts produces an annual report which is used as a basis for determining which individuals could be designated for sanctions. We have stayed in touch with the Group of Experts and have offered as much support to them as possible.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Females

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the British embassy in Kinshasa takes to monitor the situation of women in Eastern Congo; and if he will make a statement. [55028]

Mr Bellingham: To monitor the situation in Eastern Congo, we work with non-governmental organisations and other local and international civil society groups, as well as the UN peacekeeping mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is an important tool in monitoring human rights abuses. The UK also supports the work of Margot Wallström, the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Women continue to face extremely high levels of sexual and gender-based violence in DRC. We have consistently lobbied the DRC Government, both bilaterally and with our EU partners, to implement necessary reforms and tackle impunity. Our ambassador to DRC takes every appropriate opportunity to raise the issue of sexual violence against women with the DRC authorities. I visited the DRC in July of last year, and raised concerns about human rights with various DRC Government Ministers. I stressed that the DRC's human rights record must improve. I met Foreign Minister Thambwe and urged the Government of DRC to implement fully President Kabila's "Zero Tolerance" policy on perpetrators of sexual violence. In February I also welcomed the conviction of the senior commander, Lt. Col. Mutuare Daniel Kibibi, and eight other soldiers for their role in the mass rape in the town of Fizi, eastern DRC.

United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN peacekeeping force in the DRC, plays a vital role in improving the security of civilians of the DRC. The UK's position in the UN Security Council has made sure that the priority for the force is protection of civilians.

In November we published our 'National Action Plan' to address peace and security for women in DRC under UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This sets out our planned work for the coming year, and seeks to address the problem at all levels, including through security and programmes to support women in DRC. The document is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website, as is 'Human Rights and Democracy: The 2010 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report', in which DRC features as a country of concern:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/human-rights/around-the-world/human-rights-report/

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid in *(a)* damages, *(b)* claimant costs and *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against his Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled in each of the last three years. [54633]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) recognises the successful management of health and safety to be an essential part of corporate risk management, a key management objective and an integral part of its business performance, and takes all necessary steps to ensure that all legal, moral and economic obligations so far as is reasonably practicable are met.

Our figures show that the FCO paid the following amounts for *(a)* damages:

2010-11: £424,032

2009-10: £212,900

2008-09: not available

and *(b)* claimant costs:

2010-11: £523,620

2009-10: £258,110

2008-09: not available.

We do not keep records of *(c)* defendant costs in respect of all civil claims brought against the Department in which the claimant was successful or the Department settled.

The figures above are for claims on civil damages and do not include employment tribunals.

Records for 2008-09 are not kept in a format which enables easy retrieval of the data. To retrieve the full data for 2008-09 would incur disproportionate cost.

Indonesia: Religious Freedom

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of levels of religious freedom in Indonesia. [55078]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Indonesia's constitution provides for religious freedom for all and the country has strong pluralist and inclusive traditions. However, despite Indonesia's positive progress on human rights, we are concerned about recent violent incidents against religious minorities.

Our ambassador raised freedom of religion concerns with the Indonesian Attorney-General on 21 April 2011. On 5 May 2011, the EU in Jakarta held a meeting for EU partners with members of the Ahmadiyya community that was subjected to a violent attack in February 2011.

Tackling discrimination and protecting minority communities was also discussed with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue in Brussels on 9 March 2011.

Along with our EU partners, we continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia and to press the authorities to ensure respect for the rights of all religious minorities.

Iraq

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Iraqi Government on Camp Ashraf; and if he will make a statement. [53684]

Alistair Burt: Following an incident on 8 April 2011 at Camp Ashraf, I released a statement calling on the government of Iraq to cease violent operations in Camp Ashraf immediately. Our embassy officials, including our ambassador in Baghdad, have also raised concerns about the incident with the Iraqi President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Human Rights. We have urged the Iraqi authorities to take immediate steps to calm the situation at the camp; ensure that medical supplies are able to enter; and ensure that the human rights of camp residents are respected. We will continue to monitor developments at the camp closely.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the compatibility of providing arms to the anti-government forces in Libya with UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [50610]

Alistair Burt: We must do everything to comply with both Security Council Resolutions (UN SCR). The legal position is clear: the arms embargo applies to the whole territory of Libya. But at the same time UN SCR 1973 allows all necessary measures to protect civilians and civilian populated areas.

Members: Correspondence

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 17 February 2011, on behalf of her constituent Mr Robert Edmonds, reference AR/LS/947. [55137]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not receive my hon. Friend's letter of 17 February 2011. We received a copy on 10 May 2011 and have transferred it to the UK Border Agency for reply.

UK Membership of EU

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* gross cost to the public purse and *(b)* net cost to the UK economy of the UK's membership of the EU in the last year for which figures are available. [53140]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Treasury has reviewed a wide range of studies by external commentators that attempt to assess the economic costs and benefits of EU membership. These reviews are regularly updated by the Treasury to ensure that it is providing Parliament and the public with up-to-date information.

The most recent updates, along with a previous literature review from 2005, were published on the Treasury's website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
foi_costbenefit_eumembership.htm

on 1 December 2010 following a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Projections for UK's gross and net contributions to the EU budget are provided by the Office for Budget Responsibility in its Economic and Fiscal Outlook. The latest publication (March 2011) is available online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook-march.html

The table including all transactions with EU institutions is table 2.16 of the supplementary economy tables (also available online).

United Arab Emirates: AssetCo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the use of *(a)* military and *(b)* other equipment sold to the Government of United Arab Emirates by AssetCo plc in recent actions in (i) Manama, Bahrain and (ii) other cities or towns in Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [54207]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* We have seen no evidence that military or other equipment sold by AssetCo plc has been used in Bahrain. We have not seen Emiratis on the streets in Bahrain and we have seen no evidence that Gulf Cooperation forces have done anything other than safeguard installations. The UK Government take their arms export responsibilities very seriously, and operate one of the most rigorous arms export control regimes in the world. We do not export equipment where there is a clear risk it could be used for internal repression.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Crisis Loans: Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the crisis loans made from the Social Fund were made as interim payments pending benefit receipt in each year since 2009; and what proportion of funding for crisis loans these payments represented. [54191]

Steve Webb: The information available is shown in the following table. Information for 2010-11 will not be available until after the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions' Annual Report on the Social Fund for 2010-11 has been published later this year.

	Crisis loan awards in 2009-10 in Great Britain
All crisis loan initial awards (Thousand)	2,697
Crisis loan awards made for alignment purposes (Thousand)	1,100
Proportion of all crisis loans funding which was for alignment payments (percentage)	31.3

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.

2. The number of initial awards does not include awards made on review.

3. The question has been interpreted as asking for the volumes of crisis loan awards for alignment purposes as interim payments are different and do not come under the Social Fund remit.

4. The proportion of all crisis loan funding which was for alignment purposes is different to the proportion of awards because of the different award amounts given for different crisis loan applications. Awards for alignment purposes tend to be lower than those for other crisis loan awards.

5. Crisis loans for alignment purposes can be awarded prior to a new benefit claim or to the applicants first wage. Awards for alignment to first wage are small (less than 5% of all alignment awards).

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System and Annual Report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2009-10

Disability Living Allowance: Autism

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people with autism in receipt of the middle rate of disability living allowance. [47894]

Maria Miller: Figures for the number of people with autism in receipt of the middle rate of DLA are not collected separately. Such figures are included within the broader category of learning difficulties.

The information available is in the following table.

Number of people in receipt of the middle care rate of disability living allowance where the main disabling condition is learning difficulties—August 2010

	All	*Middle care rate*
All	3,176,200	1,059,800
Learning difficulties	367,400	181,000

Notes:

1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.

2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

3. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

4. Learning difficulties includes the following disabling conditions:

'F86'—'Down's Syndrome'
'F87'—'Fragile X syndrome'
'F90'—'Other Learning Disability'
'F91'—'Autism'
'F92'—'Asperger Syndrome'
'F94'—'Retts Disorder'

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample

Health Hazards: Regulation

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. [55279]

Chris Grayling: There has been no recent assessment of the effectiveness of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002—known as COSHH. However COSHH implements, among others, Directive 98/24/EC, the chemical agents directive, and the UK was obliged to assess the impact of the first five years of practical implementation of chemical agents directive in 2007.

This assessment was prepared for the UK Government by the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). It is available on the HSE website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/hscarchive/2007/060207/c20.pdf

The assessment concluded that while it was too early to assess the effect of the implementing regulations on occupational health and safety, as even if enough time had elapsed for potentially significant improvements to occur, it would be challenging to differentiate between the effects of the regulations, effects of other initiatives, e.g. targeted inspector activity, and background trends in improving health and safety.

The UK will be required to undertake the next assessment of the implementation of the chemical agents directive later this year and HSE is currently considering the most appropriate way to do this.

Housing Benefit

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on giving tenants in the private rented sector the choice of whether to receive local housing allowance directly. [50649]

Steve Webb: We continue to support the principle that tenants in the private rented sector should be responsible for managing their rental payments. There are safeguards in place so that housing benefit can be paid to the landlord if the tenant is unable or unlikely to pay their rent. Benefit is also paid direct to the landlord if the tenant is in arrears by eight weeks' rent.

From April 2011 we are widening local authority discretion to pay housing benefit direct to the landlord only if it would help the customer secure a new tenancy or remain in their current home at a reduced rent. We will work closely with local authorities to ensure this provision is used in very specific circumstances where landlords are reducing rents to a level that is affordable for customers.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effects on levels of private sector lending to housing associations of changes in the number of housing association tenants paying the housing benefit element of universal credit direct to their landlord compared with equivalent levels at present; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on this matter. [52750]

Steve Webb: We said in the recent Welfare Reform White Paper that there are advantages in paying the housing component to individuals, but we also recognise the importance of stable rental income and private sector lending for social landlords.

Together with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, we are considering a range of options for achieving this, such as the use of direct debits and other protection mechanisms which could safeguard landlords' incomes. Moreover, we are retaining a facility in universal credit for direct payments to landlords.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he had had with representatives of *(a)* social landlords, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* lenders, *(d)* third sector organisations and *(e)* tenants organisations on payment direct to landlords of the housing element of universal credit. [52752]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions have direct discussions on universal credit, and the housing element of universal credit, with a range of stakeholder groups. These groups include local authorities, landlord representatives and welfare organisations.

We have also said that there are advantages in paying the housing component to individuals, but we also recognise the importance of stable rental income for social landlords. We are considering a range of options for achieving this, such as the use of direct debits and other protection mechanisms which could safeguard landlords' incomes. Moreover, we are retaining a facility in universal credit for direct payments to landlords.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of likely claimant *(a)* on-flow and *(b)* off-flow rates for housing benefit in each year to 2019-20. [53501]

Steve Webb: The requested information is not available.

Experimental official statistics on housing benefit flows from November 2008 to November 2010 are available, and are published at the bottom of the following link:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb

The latest published forecast of the total housing benefit caseload to 2015-16 is provided in the following table.

	Housing benefit caseload (Thousand)
2010-11	4,785
2011-12	4,834
2012-13	4,779
2013-14	4,650
2014-15	4,538
2015-16	4,464

Source:
Budget 2011 forecasts, available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=medium_term

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on individual families of the changes in housing allowances which took effect in April 2011. [55010]

Steve Webb: The Department has commissioned a consortium of academics and research organisations led by Ian Cole, professor of housing studies at Sheffield Hallam university to undertake an independent review of the impact of the housing benefit measures introduced last month. The work will include the effects of the measures on families.

The Department for Communities and Local Government, The Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government are working in close partnership with the DWP and contributing to the costs of the review.

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to retain or reinstate arrangements for housing benefit to be paid direct to private landlords. [47602]

Steve Webb: We continue to support the principle that tenants in the private rented sector should be responsible for managing their rental payments. There are safeguards in place so that housing benefit can be paid to the landlord if the tenant is unable or unlikely to pay their rent. Benefit is also paid direct to the landlord if the tenant is in arrears by eight weeks' rent.

From April 2011 we are widening local authority discretion to pay housing benefit direct to the landlord only if it would help the customer secure a new tenancy or remain in their current home at a reduced rent. We will work closely with local authorities to ensure this provision is used in very specific circumstances where landlords are reducing rents to a level that is affordable for customers.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of any change in the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of rent arrears in the private rented sector since the introduction of direct payment of housing benefit to tenants. [54647]

Steve Webb: The Department published its assessment of the impact of direct payment of housing benefit to tenants in its Two Year Review of the operation of the local housing allowance. This report was published on 10 February and a copy is available in the House of Commons Library.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on whether tenants in the private rented sector should be able to decide who receives their housing benefit payments. [54648]

Steve Webb: The Department has received representations during the current parliamentary session on the subject of direct payment of housing benefit to private rental sector landlords from:

National Landlords Association

Greater London Authority

Crisis

Shelter

Citizens Advice.

Other organisations, such as the Residential Landlords Association and the British Property Federation, have made submissions to the Work and Pensions Select Committee proposing the reintroduction of tenant choice for housing benefit payments.

Several similar letters and representations have been received from Members of Parliament in respect of their constituents and local organisations.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there will be provision for tenants in the private rented sector to decide to whom the housing element of universal credit is paid. [54649]

Steve Webb: The Government see the main purpose of the benefit system as helping people into work. This is why customers claiming housing benefit according to local housing allowance rules have their payment made to them directly, except where they are unable to handle their financial affairs or where they have got into rent arrears of eight weeks or more.

We intend to take these principles forward into universal credit so private-rented sector tenants, moving onto universal credit for the first time, will generally be paid direct. We are, however, retaining a facility for direct payment to landlords.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received from *(a)* Shelter and *(b)* Crisis on the direct payment to landlords of housing benefit in respect of tenants in the private rented sector. [54650]

Steve Webb: Representations have been received from both Shelter and Crisis on the direct payment of housing benefit for tenants in the private rented sector. Both Crisis and Shelter have stated that the reintroduction of tenant choice in deciding whether payments should be made to landlords would encourage landlords to stay in the housing benefit market. Shelter based their recommendation on a survey of claimants and a poll of landlords and they made these points in their response to the housing benefit reforms announced in the June 2010 Budget.

Both organisations have also submitted responses to the Work and Pensions Select Committee and the Social Security Advisory Committee which highlighted this area.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the preferences of private sector housing tenants in respect of payment of housing benefit. [54651]

Steve Webb: The evaluation of the local housing allowance pathfinders commissioned and undertaken by my Department between 2004 and 2006 examined the preference of private sector housing tenants in respect of payment of housing benefit.

Copies of the pathfinder evaluation reports covering the views and experiences of tenants, landlords, pathfinder local authorities and other stakeholders of the local housing allowance pathfinder scheme, can be found on the DWP's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local%2Dauthority%2Dstaff/housing%2Dbenefit/claims%2Dprocessing/local%2Dhousing%2Dallowance/evaluation/pathfinders/

The Department has commissioned a consortium of academics and research organisations led by Ian Cole, professor of housing studies at Sheffield Hallam University for the independent review of the impact of the Housing Benefit measures introduced last month.

Incapacity Benefit: Mental Health

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how many recipients of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance mental health was a factor in their incapacity for work in each constituency in the last period for which figures are available; and what proportion of recipients of each such benefit such cases represented. [52465]

Maria Miller: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

National Identity Fraud Unit

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases were referred to the National Identity Fraud Unit in each year since 1997; how many such cases were investigated in each such year; and how many such cases subsequently resulted in a conviction. [53460]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus does not collect statistical information relating to the number of cases referred to National Identity Fraud Unit since 1997, how many cases were investigated in each year, and how many cases subsequently resulted in a conviction.

Offshore Industry: Safety

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to apply the health and safety regulations associated with the offshore oil and gas sector to offshore wind development in the UK. [54666]

Chris Grayling: The Government believe new energy technologies will make a major contribution to the UK's energy future. To help enable this, health and safety issues must be appropriately addressed.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has recently completed a programme of work reviewing the health and safety hazards associated with key emerging energy technologies, including offshore wind power. This work concluded that the existing legislative framework, established under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, is sufficient to manage the hazards associated with emerging energy technologies and did not identify a current need to extend the permissioning regime adopted in the offshore oil and gas sector to offshore wind development. HSE is supplementing this approach by working with industry to encourage the spread of relevant good practice developed by existing offshore industries into new energy sectors. The Government will continue to monitor the application of health and safety legislation to all areas of emerging energy to ensure that hazards are managed and controlled effectively.

Pensions: Fraud

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error rate was in the administration of the basic state pension in each of the last five years; how many basic state pension claimants were asked to make repayments in each such year; what the total amount of overpaid state pensions repaid was in each such year; and what the average amount of basic state pension overpaid to claimants was in each such year. [53389]

Steve Webb: A measurement exercise to estimate the level of official error in the basic state pension is carried out each year. However, measurement of customer error and fraud is only carried out occasionally. The last time customer error and fraud were measured was in 2005-06. Therefore, each time the Department issues updated fraud and error data, the 2005-06 rates for customer error and fraud in the basic state pension are used, multiplied by current expenditure to give a cash figure.

The rate of official error in the administration of the basic state pension in each of the last five years is provided in the following table:

Official error rate

Percentage

	Overpayments	*Underpayments*
2009-10	0.0	0.1
2008-09	0.0	0.2
2007-08	0.0	0.2
2006-07	0.1	0.1
2005-06	0.0	0.1

Note:
Data are not yet available for 2010-11
Source:
National Statistics reports, 'Fraud and Error in the Benefit System'

The 2005-06 customer error and fraud rates are provided in the following table:

2005-06

	Overpayments	*Underpayments*
Customer error	0.1	0.0
Fraud	0.0	0.0

Source:
National Statistics report, 'Fraud and Error in State Pension', 2006

Details of the number of new state pension overpayments recorded in each of the last five years, the total amount repaid in each year and the average overpayment in each of those years are shown in the following table.

	Volume of new overpayments	*Amounts repaid in year (£ million)*	*Average overpayment (£)*
2010-11	233,000	32.1	198
2009-10	368,000	33.6	169
2008-09	456,000	36.8	120
2007-08	466,000	36.3	153
2006-07	440,000	30.4	134

Notes:
1. The volume of new overpayments raised in any particular year could include multiple overpayments incurred by the same customer
2. The volume of new overpayments excludes those classified as not cost-effective to recover (generally those with a value of £65 or less).
3. The average overpayment is calculated by dividing the total value of new debt raised in any one year by the number of new overpayments raised in that year.
Source:
These figures are from Shared Services' Debt Manager via Business Objects computer system and are subject to rounding. The figures are management information collected for the purpose of routine administration, and therefore have not been subjected to the rigorous quality assurance that is applied to DWP official statistics.

Personal Independence Payment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had discussions with representatives of organisations representing people with fibromyalgia on proposals for face-to-face assessments for the personal independence payments scheme. [52764]

Maria Miller: Throughout the development of the new personal independence payment we have had extensive discussions and consultation with representatives of organisations representing disabled people and their families, including support groups for individuals with fibromyalgia.

It is, however, important to the Government's approach that the personal independence payment assessment looks at disabled people as individuals and does not just label them by their health condition or impairment. That's why it is being designed to consider an individual's personal circumstances and the support they need, rather than basing eligibility on a specific medical condition.

The new assessment better reflects our understanding of disability in the 21st century and will take account of physical, sensory, mental, intellectual and cognitive impairments. This will ensure that support is targeted on those disabled people whose impairments have the greatest impact on their ability to live independent lives. We will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested. We had many helpful responses to our public consultation from individuals with fibromyalgia and fibromyalgia support groups in Tonbridge, Eastbourne and Surrey and Sussex, and hope to continue to work with a broad range of groups going forwards.

Remploy: Incentives

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the amounts were of the five largest bonuses paid to Remploy employees in each year since 2005; [41486]

(2) how much was awarded in bonuses to Remploy employees in each year since 2005. [41487]

Maria Miller: The bonus scheme for the 2009-10 performance year and the previous five years was agreed between Remploy and the previous Administration. This Government believe all Departments, including non-departmental public bodies, need to show restraint in the current economic climate and that bonus payments need to better reflect the financial situation, the Government and the NDPB concerned. The Department, therefore, requested that Remploy apply the Government's bonus cap. A recent employment tribunal found that the previous administration's remuneration settlement in respect of commission payments had to be paid for contractual reasons.

I have instructed Remploy to review their bonus scheme and ensure pay restraint is applied in future years.

The five largest bonuses paid to Remploy employees for performance in each year since 2005 is shown in the following table.

	1	2	3	4	£ 5
2005-06	13,283	15,123	15,598	17,604	18,765
2006-07	19,250	19,600	21,302	25,100	25,522
2007-08	21,994	23,288	24,892	31,375	39,067
2008-09	12,000	12,432	12,500	15,000	24,892
2009-10	20,300	26,100	29,500	30,800	35,700

Bonuses awarded to Remploy employees in each year since 2005 are presented in the following table:

	£
2005-06	940,000
2006-07	1,724,000
2007-08	1,788,000
2008-09	682,000
2009-10	1,705,000

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what bonus payments were made to staff of Remploy in 2010. [37593]

Maria Miller: The bonus scheme for the 2009-10 performance year and the previous five years was agreed between Remploy and the previous Administration. This Government believe all Departments, including non-departmental public bodies, need to show restraint in the current economic climate and that bonus payments need to better reflect the financial situation, the Government and the NDPB concerned. The Department, therefore, requested that Remploy apply the Government's bonus cap. A recent employment tribunal found that the previous administration's remuneration settlement in respect of commission payments had to be paid for contractual reasons.

All public sector bodies are reminded of the need for financial restraint and we have made clear that Remploy executives and managers should reflect this consideration in their pay and bonuses. I have instructed Remploy to ensure pay restraint is applied from here on.

		£
November 2010	Capped payments	1,390,000
January 2011	Balance of payments	315,000
Total		1,705,000

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
Source:
Remploy.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he intends that the proposed £26,000 benefit cap will be applied in combination with the 13-week rule applied to housing benefit claims. [44387]

Steve Webb: We are introducing a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so households on out of work benefits will no longer receive more in benefit than the average weekly wage earned by working families.

On the cap's introduction in 2013, we estimate it will be set at £500 per week for couple and single parent households and £350 per week for single adult households without children. This will apply to all new universal credit claims.

Exemptions from the application of the benefit cap will be set out in regulations following the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill.

We are currently looking at how universal credit could transitionally protect particularly hard cases.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his planned changes to the pension age begin in 2016 for women and 2018 for men. [55155]

Steve Webb: By April 2016, women's state pension age will have risen to 63 under the timetable legislated in 1995. The UK, like all other EU member states, is under an obligation to remove gender inequalities currently present in state pension ages.

Directive 79/7 prohibits gender discrimination in social security, including state pensions. The directive allows the setting of state pension age to be a limited exception but this should be done in accordance with the principle that member states may only temporarily allow women to retire earlier than men, in order to allow member states to change gradually their pension systems so that equalisation is achieved.

It has therefore been decided to equalise women's state pension age with men's state pension age before the increase to 66 can take place. This is why our proposed changes begin earlier for women than men.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of women he expects to work for longer before reaching pension age in each year from the implementation of those changes. [55270]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the estimates presented in the equality impact assessment which accompanies the Pensions Bill 2011 (page 40 of Annex A).

Winter Fuel Payments

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the birthday date for qualification for winter fuel allowance will be for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each of the next 15 years. [55151]

Steve Webb: The age at which winter fuel payments can be received is increasing in line with the women's state pension age. The qualifying birth dates for each of the next 15 years are in the following table and are the same for men and women.

Winter fuel payment qualifying dates

Winter	*Must be born on or before this date to qualify*
2011-12	5 January 1951
2012-13	5 July 1951

Winter fuel payment qualifying dates

Winter	*Must be born on or before this date to qualify*
2013-14	5 January 1952
2014-15	5 July 1952
2015-16	5 January 1953
2016-17	5 July 1953
2017-18	5 January 1954
2018-19	5 July 1954
2019-20	5 January 1955
2020-21	26 September 1955
2021-22	25 September 1956
2022-23	24 September 1957
2023-24	22 September 1958
2024-25	21 September 1959
2025-26	27 September 1960

Note:
The table is based on state pension age under the current legislated timetable and does not include the proposed changes in the Pensions Bill 2011.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he conducted an equality impact assessment in respect of his decision to increase the qualification age for winter fuel allowance in line with the state pension age. [55152]

Maria Miller: The winter fuel payment is a universal benefit and the qualifying age is linked to women's state pension age under existing legislation. The equality impact assessment covering the Social Security (Equalisation of State Pension Age) Regulations 2009 includes the impact on winter fuel payments. A copy of the equality impact assessment was published on 18 June 2009 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/equalisation-state-pension-age.pdf

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel have been recruited to each of the armed forces in each month since the date of the strategic defence and security review; and how many personnel he expects to be recruited to each of the armed forces in each of the next 12 months. [54771]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is presented in the following table.

	October 2010	*November 2010*	*December 2010*	*January 2011*	*February 2011*	*March 2011*	*April 2011*
Naval service	304	328	57	199	59	15	3
Army	1,335	989	3	1,375	635	861	759
RAF	148	78	0	160	48	98	104

The naval services have conducted a forecast of recruitment based on the numbers recruited in previous years and this is presented below as an annual figure broken down by officers and other ranks. In the Army and RAF such forecasts are not undertaken however both services have yearly recruitment targets and these are presented as follows.

	Number
RN officers	300
RN other ranks/ratings	1,640
Army officers	900
Army other ranks	10,600
RAF officers	230
RAF other ranks	1,640

Armed Forces: Training

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make a decision on the future of the Defence Technical College; and if he will make a statement. [55341]

Nick Harvey: The Defence Technical Training Change Programme is currently considering options for the future location or locations of Defence Technical Training. This process is subject to full internal scrutiny and as such a final decision is anticipated before the end of this year.

RAF Menwith Hill

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies with headquarters in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the US have received contracts for over £50,000 for work at Menwith Hill in each year since 2008-09. [55029]

Nick Harvey: Companies who have received contracts for works in excess of £50,000 at RAF Menwith Hill in each year since 2008-09 are shown in the following tables.

UK Contractors

Contractor	*Year*
Carillion PLC	2008 2009 2010 2011
Alfred McAlpine Building Services	2008
Balfour Beatty Engineering Services Limited	2010 2011
Haden Young Limited	2008 2009 2010 2011
Mott McDonald	2008 2009 2010 2011

UK Contractors

Contractor	*Year*
Scott Wilson	2008
	2009
	2010
	2011
URS	2010
	2011
Walter Thompson	2008
Shaylor Construction	2008
Britcon Limited	2008
	2009
SGW Construction	2009
Paragon	2008
Wrekin Construction	2008
	2009
T Clarke (Electrical)	2008
	2009
	2010
	2011
Nomenca	2011
Ove Arup	2008
	2009
Northern Electric Distribution Limited	2010
	2011
WYG	2009
	2010
	2011
IUS	2009
AECOM	2010
	2011
Landscape Solutions	2008
	2009
	2010
	2011
DSM Demolition Limited	2009
	2010

US Contractors

Contractor	*Year*
Northrup Grumman	2008
	2009
	2010
	2011
Lockheed Martin	2008
	2009
	2010
	2011
ECC	2010
	2011

Details of all new central Government contracts are now available online at:

www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk

Reserve Forces

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has to engage with interested parties in his review of the reserve forces; [54249]

(2) what considerations he gave to synchronising his Department's review of the reserve forces with the Strategic Defence and Security Review; [54250]

(3) what progress his Department has made on its review of the reserve forces; and on what date the report of the review is to be published. [54251]

Mr Robathan: As part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) announcement on 19 October 2010, the Prime Minister commissioned a six month study into the future role and structure of the Reserves to ensure the most efficient use of Reservists to meet the UK's operational requirements for future conflict. The need for the review flows directly from and forms part of the SDSR.

The Study is governed by a Reserves Steering Group, led by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, supported by the hon. Member for Canterbury (Mr Brazier). It incorporates representation from the single Service Chiefs, the key Ministry of Defence principals, Defence's senior Reservist officer (Major General Greg Smith), the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association and the National Employers' Advisory Board.

Throughout, the progress, key decisions and their likely impacts will be communicated widely to the defence community and interested stakeholders, via Defence Internal Briefs and publication of information on the Defence website:

www.mod.uk/reserves

A copy of the terms of reference for the Future Reserves 2020 study, which includes the timetable for the study, was placed in the Library of the House in December 2010. I can confirm that the Future Reserves 2020 Study is to conclude in the summer.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Company Liquidations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses entered into liquidation in England in each of the last five years. [55222]

Mr Davey: Official statistics covering corporate insolvencies for England alone are not currently available. Figures are, however, available for England and Wales in total, as shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Total liquidations in England and Wales in the last five years

	Total liquidations
2006	13,137
2007	12,507
2008	15,535
2009	19,077
2010	16,045

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department incurred on its website in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many people visited the website in that period. [55232]

Mr Davey: Figures for website costs and usage for the BIS website (www.bis.gov.uk) were recently submitted to the Central Office of Information. They cover the 2010-11 financial year.

Non-staff costs were £372,506. Staff costs for 9.1 full-time equivalents were £263,203, making the total cost £635,709. During this period the content of 12 BIS partner organisation websites was converged onto the BIS web publishing platform, contributing to the costs reported here.

The site received 3,681,576 unique visitors, who made 6,030,197 visits, resulting in 21,795,586 page views.

Exports: Defence Equipment

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library the country by country arms export data for *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010 in the same format as that used for the period from 2000 to 2007. [54718]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for releasing these data on a quarterly and annual basis.

The data are no longer placed in the Library as they are now readily available via the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox/sdb/SDBHOME

Reports from 2008 onwards are still produced in the same style, compared to 2007, but in line with the Government's commitment to be more transparent and accountable we now provide much more information for each country. Improvements include:

the goods rating being provided in addition to a summary description of the item, thus giving more information on the type of goods for which a licence has been issued for export to a specified country;

the values are now broken down to the nearest £ per country and per rating, whereas previous reports gave a total figure for all licences issued for that country rounded to the nearest £0.5 million;

median processing times are now provided per country, whereas this was not available previously.

Furthermore the website referred to allows any person either to download reports published on a quarterly/annual basis within the 'Published Reports' area of the website (in read only format), or alternatively to register on the website and then produce their own bespoke reports.

For these reasons the Government do not propose to place this information in the Library in the format requested, as more extensive information is already available to Members of Parliament through the online database.

Green Investment Bank

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 304W, on the Green Investment Bank, if he will bring forward the date from which the borrowing powers of the Green Investment Bank may commence. [54273]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer made clear in his Budget statement of 23 March that the Government will enable the Green Investment Bank to borrow from 2015-16 and once the target for debt to be falling as percentage of gross domestic product has been met. We will say more on the bank's operations later this month.

Higher Education: Performance Indicators

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* drop-out and *(b)* course transfer rate at each university in England was for students starting degrees in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) 2010. [54770]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance Indicators in Higher Education provide information on drop-out and course transfer rates at institution level for UK-domiciled students.

HESA produces two indicators which can be used as drop-out rates. Non-continuation considers students who start in a given academic year and identifies whether they are still in higher education one year later, for full-time students, or two years later, for part-time students. Non-completion refers to projected outcomes over a longer period based on the current pattern of students' behaviour. Information on non-continuation, non-completion and course transfer at institution level is available from HESA at this link to their website:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2064&Itemid=141

The latest available information is for the 2008/09 academic year. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from HESA in April 2012. More information on the HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education is available at:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/2072/141/

Higher Education: Private Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which providers of for-profit higher education services he has met in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [54976]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 10 May 2011]:* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and I meet regularly with a wide range of providers of higher education in the UK and internationally. The Department does not hold comprehensive information on whether higher education providers Ministers have met are classed as for-profit or not-for-profit institutions. A quarterly-updated list of all this Department ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-external-meetings-department-for-business

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the drop-out rates were at those for-profit higher education institutions where students received loans via the Student Loans Company but which did not receive other public funding council grants; and if he will make a statement. [54977]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 10 May 2011]:* According to Student Loans Company data, in the 2009/10 academic year, 4,160 higher education students at private higher education institutions were in receipt of student finance. The Department does not hold comprehensive information on whether those private higher education providers are classed as for-profit or not-for-profit institutions, as this does not form part of the designation process. The available data do not allow us to discern whether or not any of these students were in receipt of other public funding council grants.

Although the Higher Education Statistics Agency recently collected some data on private providers of higher education, the data do not contain the necessary detail to enable the calculation of drop-out rates at these institutions.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to amend the requirement to renew the grant of degree-awarding powers to private providers of higher education; and if he will make a statement. [54861]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* The future regulatory regime, including the degree awarding powers process for all providers of higher education, will be considered in the forthcoming White Paper. This will set out the Government's proposals to encourage a more diverse and competitive higher education sector alongside an appropriate regulatory regime, which ensures high standards and protects students.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the core and margin model in relation to student numbers in higher education; and if he will make a statement. [54944]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 10 May 2011]:* Key to driving competition and improving quality and student choice is freeing up the allocation of existing student numbers. Allocating places on a 'core and margin' basis is one of the options being considered and will be discussed in the forthcoming higher education White Paper.

London College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representations he has received on the London College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine since its collapse; and if he will make a statement. [54865]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* Correspondence to the Department is held centrally and indexed by title. These records show that we have had nine representations specifically on this subject. Other correspondence will have mentioned it but, as it is not indexed under this particular title, full details could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Medicine: Education

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of the Higher Education (Higher Amount) (England) Regulations 2010 on the number of graduate entry medical students; and if he will make a statement. [55272]

Mr Willetts: The Department has made no specific assessment of the effects of the Higher Education (Higher Amount) (England) Regulations 2010 at subject level. We are working with the Department of Health to consider the impact on medical students. The Departments have a shared responsibility for providing student support for graduate entry medical students.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether graduate entry medical students will be required to cover the cost of their tuition fees for the first year of study in academic year 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [55273]

Mr Willetts: Tuition fee support is currently not available for year one of a graduate entry medical course and this will remain the case in 2012/13. Graduate entry medical students can apply for a maintenance loan, supplementary grants and disabled students allowances for their first year from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and a reduced level maintenance loan for the duration of their course, but receive no other support. From year two of the course responsibility for providing support is shared with the Department of Health which currently provides support for tuition fees, a means tested NHS bursary and supplementary grants and allowances.

North Sea Oil

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates he met ministerial colleagues in HM Treasury to discuss the implications for investment in North Sea oil and gas fields of proposed changes to taxation. [51601]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State meets Treasury Ministers frequently and they discuss a wide range of government policy areas of mutual interest.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the implications for investment in North Sea oil and gas fields of changes to taxation. [51602]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State meets the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change frequently and they discuss a wide range of government policy areas of mutual interest.

Oil

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the policy of UK Trade and Investment is on support for UK-based companies that develop and export tar sands oil extraction technologies. [54481]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) treats UK-based companies with specialist technology relevant to oil sands in the same way as any other company in the oil and gas supply chain. The full range of UKTI services are available to all UK-based companies engaged in oil and gas extraction regardless of the nature of the project.

Professional Development Loans

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the withdrawal of professional development loans by retail banks; and if he will make a statement. [55276]

Mr Willetts: The supply of professional development loans by retail banks is a matter for those banks.

Neither the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), nor I have therefore discussed the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne).

Retail banks do deliver the professional and career development loans (PCDLs) scheme on behalf on the Department. There are no plans to withdraw this scheme.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria will be used to assess the *(a)* viability and *(b)* efficacy of Round 2 bids for the Regional Growth Fund in (i) the East of England and (ii) England; and if he will make a statement. [55342]

Mr Prisk: The criteria for the second round for assessing projects are the same as the first round and this applies to bids from all over England. To qualify for support from the Regional Growth Fund, projects should demonstrate that they:

create additional sustainable private sector growth;

rebalance the economy in those areas currently dependent on the public sector;

would not otherwise go ahead without support from the Regional Growth Fund;

offer value for money; and

be state aid compliant.

Royal Mail

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the phantom share element of Royal Mail's Colleague Shares scheme; and if he will make a statement. [55353]

Mr Davey: Colleague Share is an incentive scheme set up in 2007 by Royal Mail and as such is an operational matter for the company.

The scheme, which is expected to have paid out £2,200 to most members by the time various operational targets are met, will close in March 2012. After this date, it is for Royal Mail to decide whether to introduce further employee incentive schemes and the form of those schemes.

Separately, as part of the provisions in the Postal Services Bill, the Government will make available shares to employees upon the first sale of Royal Mail shares.

Technology Strategy Board: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the core budget for the Technology Strategy Board was for each of the last three years; what that budget will be for each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [54945]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 10 May 2011]*: The Technology Strategy Board's core budget was £193 million in 2008/09, £253 million in 2009/10, and £263 million in 2010/11, as announced in the 2007 spending review.

The Technology Strategy Board's core budget for 2011/12 is £317 million, which includes funding for Technology and Innovation Centres and to deliver a national Grant for Research and Development (R&D) scheme. I cannot be specific on future year allocations, but it will be of the order £300 million per annum resulting in support worth over £1 billion in business led R&D over the spending review period.

Trade: Developing Countries

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made on the Doha round; and if he will make a statement. [55133]

Mr Davey: Concluding the Doha round in 2011 is the UK's top overarching trade priority. Negotiations are currently at an impasse over industrial tariff cuts. We are pushing the key players to show the leadership and flexibility needed to conclude the round this year.

World Intellectual Property Organisation: Visual Impairment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to support the adoption of the legally binding treaty for the visually impaired and other print-disabled persons at the World Intellectual Property Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [54982]

Mr Davey: Of the four proposals currently in front of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), two are for legally-binding treaties, and two are for non-binding recommendations to WIPO member states. No single document has so far gained consensus from all WIPO members. The European Union leads negotiations at WIPO on behalf of its member states, including the UK, and supports a non-binding approach. The UK is receptive to any reasonable way forward that will make a real difference to the lives of visually impaired people.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 13 May 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Audio Recordings

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 566W, on motions: audio recordings, whether the House of Commons Commission plans to place on the parliamentary website the remainder of the sound recording of the debate held on a Motion of no confidence in the Government on 28 March 1979; and if he will make a statement. [55297]

John Thurso: The selected clips from the 1979 audio recording of the debate held on a Motion of no confidence in the Government on 28 March 1979 have been published on the Living Heritage page on the Parliament website. Web access to complete archive films would require a major development of the Parliament Live TV website. Currently there are no plans to do this.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice has been given to Ministers on mobile telephone security in the last three months. [55271]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

On appointment, Ministers are given briefing on a wide range of security issues and are subsequently given any updates as a matter of course.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has considered the merits of extending the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme beyond the end of 2011. [55574]

Damian Green: The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme is only open to nationals of Bulgaria and Romania and forms part of the restrictions on labour market access currently applied to nationals of those countries. Those restrictions may be extended to the end of 2013 if there is a labour market case for doing so and the Government will be making a decision later this year.

HEALTH

NHS: Ambulances

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS ambulances were damaged while in service in the last five years. [55217]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect centrally information on the numbers of NHS ambulances damaged while in service.

Sickle Cell Anaemia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on sickle cell anaemia and the NHS. [55212]

Anne Milton: The Department receives representations periodically including invitations to Ministers to attend events of the All Party Parliamentary Group on sickle cell and thalassaemia. I attended the All Party Parliamentary Group on sickle cell and thalassaemia's parliamentary reception on 16 November 2010.

Air Ambulance Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS air ambulances are in service; and whether he has plans to increase this number. [55227]

Mr Simon Burns: The national health service does not operate air ambulances—they are run and funded by independent charities. However, in order to strike an appropriate balance between the high cost to operate air ambulances and the role they can play in assisting the NHS in delivering emergency care, the NHS has, since 1 April 2002, normally met the cost of clinical staff on air ambulances. It remains for NHS trusts to decide whether they provide any additional funding to air ambulance charities.

Departmental Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many official trips he has made abroad in the last 12 months; and what expenditure his Department has incurred on such visits. [55223]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of all ministerial overseas travel, including the cost, are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website at the following address:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Ministersand DepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

Hospitals: Libraries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of expenditure on hospital libraries in the last five years. [55226]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS Bursary Scheme

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the cost of the NHS bursary scheme in each of the financial years from 2011-12 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [55274]

Anne Milton: The National Health Service bursary scheme budget is part of the multi-professional education and training budget and paying students is the first call on this budget. In 2011-12, the NHS bursary scheme is expected to cost £520 million. Future costs will be dictated by student numbers, the level of attrition and the format of the NHS bursary scheme, which is currently under review.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS bursary scheme will continue to cover tuition fees following the implementation of the Higher Education (Higher Amounts) (England) Regulations 2010; and if he will make a statement. [55275]

Anne Milton: The Higher Education (Higher Amounts) (England) Regulations 2010 will have no direct impact on national health service funded students as universities are prohibited from charging tuition fees under the terms of the standard contract. Tuition fees for medical and dental students in the later years of training are met from the NHS bursary scheme. We are assessing the impact of the regulations on these students and considering whether any changes are necessary.

WORK AND PENSIONS

State Retirement Pensions: Immigrants

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the number of immigrants that would be affected by the proposed introduction of a seven-year minimum qualifying rule for future pensioners as part of his plans for state pension reform. [55428]

Steve Webb: The Government's consultation paper 'A state pension for the 21st century' sets out two broad options for reform to simplify the state pension and better support saving.

The Government are currently seeking views on both options for reform as part of the consultation process and, as policy development is still under way, it is not possible to provide further detail at this stage. The Government will provide further detail and a full assessment of the impacts of any changes when they publish more detailed proposals for reform.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps his Office has taken to support the big society initiative. [42651]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My office are encouraged to participate in volunteering activities in accordance with the Cabinet Office's departmental policy on volunteering, for which the Minister for the Cabinet Office is responsible.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Office are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Office's involvement in the big society initiative. [42669]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I support any initiative to encourage volunteering and I will be taking an active role in the Speakers for Schools initiative along with my fellow Cabinet colleagues.

JUSTICE

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and victims' services to be completed. [55501]

Mr Blunt: The Government intend to make an announcement before the summer recess.

Cumulative Jackson Proposals

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the impact assessment of the Cumulative Jackson Proposals, whether he has taken steps to verify independently the results table in Annex A; and if he will make a statement. [55265]

Mr Djanogly: In undertaking the calculations in Annex A, Ministry of Justice officials engaged with Professor Paul Fenn of Nottingham University Business School as to the dataset used and the methodology applied. Professor Fenn acted as an assessor to Lord Justice Jackson.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many invoices his Department received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55862]

Mr Blunt: I can confirm that NOMS Shared Services paid 445,933 invoices between 1 May 2010 and 31 March 2011 of these 101,577 invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance.

Earned Privilege Schemes

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* foreign national prisoners and *(b)* immigration detainees were involved in incentive and earned privilege schemes in each of the last five years; and what the total monetary value of additional allowances and privileges awarded was in each such case in each year; [55536]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of Prison Service Instruction 11/2011 on incentives and earned privilege. [55537]

Mr Blunt: The incentives and earned privileges scheme applies to all prisoners, including all foreign national prisoners and immigration detainees. The purpose of the scheme is to allow prisoners to earn additional privileges through responsible behaviour, participation in hard work and other constructive activity. The key earnable privileges do not have a direct monetary value; for example, costs of in-cell television and wearing own clothes are borne by the prisoner. Other key earnable privileges, such as additional prison visits, are already provided by NOMS and form an integral part of the prison regime. Governors may offer additional earnable privileges as part of local schemes. Details of these are not held centrally and could be obtained only by contacting every prison at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service Instruction 11/2011 did not introduce any substantive changes to the previous Incentives and Earned Privileges policy. The scheme is an integral part of prisoner management and the cost of operating it cannot be separately identified.

Judicial Review: Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to revise the Boxall rules on costs in judicial review cases. [55445]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have not taken a view on Lord Justice Jackson's recommendation in his Review of Civil Litigation Costs to revise the law on the costs of judicial review claims which derives from the case of R (on the application of Boxall) *v.* Waltham Forest LBC (2001) 4 CCLR 258.

Legal Aid

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims were brought in the Administrative Court under a conditional fee agreement using legal aid and in any other funding category in each of the last three years. [55446]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally which specifically relate to the total numbers of claims brought in the Administrative Court under a Conditional Fee agreement, using legal aid or another type of funding. While claims brought in the Administrative Court are recorded on IT systems, information on how they are funded is not recorded for each case.

Legal Aid: Reform

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in responding to his Department's consultation on the reform of legal aid; and when he plans to issue the response. [55442]

Mr Djanogly: We are making good progress in preparing the Government's response to the consultation. I anticipate being able to publish the response soon after Whitsun recess.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the name is of each respondent to his Department's consultation on the reform of legal aid. [55443]

Mr Djanogly: It is likely that a list of respondents will be published alongside the response to consultation.

Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received reports of prisoners who have been identified as presenting a risk to children who have *(a)* requested and *(b)* been granted permission to make contact or correspond with a child in each of the last five years. [55544]

Mr Blunt: The consideration of any requests by prisoners to make contact or correspond with children takes place at the establishment where the prisoner is held. Information about such requests is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The level of risk posed by a prisoner to children will help the prison governor or his representative to determine whether to grant permission for contact, and what level of restrictions, if any, to apply. However, the overriding principle in decisions of this kind is what is in the best interests of the child.

Prisoners' Release

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have taken part in the payment by results programme at HMP Peterborough to date; how long each such offender was in custody in HMP Peterborough; what the average age has been of offenders participating in the payment by results programme at HMP Peterborough; what the average length of sentence has been of those taking part; and if he will make a statement. [55280]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has commissioned Social Finance Ltd to run the Social Impact Bond at Peterborough prison for a maximum period of six years. The project will work with three 1,000-offender cohorts, and the final cohort will close when it numbers 1,000 offenders, or in August 2016 if the capacity is not reached. Although an interim evaluation of the rehabilitation pilots will take place before February 2013, the assessment of reconviction rates for this cohort will begin 18 months after capacity is reached, and by February 2018 at the latest. The Ministry of Justice will measure the outcome of the programme in relation to the entire cohort of offenders eligible, and does not collect data on participation.

Prisons: Crimes of violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many incidents of attacks on *(a)* prison staff and *(b)* prisoners were recorded in prisons where the victim (i) was and (ii) was not hospitalised in 2010; and how many incidents of attacks on (A) prison staff and (B) prisoners were recorded in prisons where (1) a weapon and (2) no weapon was used in 2010; [55281]

(2) how many assaults by a prisoner on *(a)* a member of staff and *(b)* another prisoner were recorded in 2010. [55282]

Mr Blunt: Statistics for 2010 have not yet been published. Safety in Custody statistics for 2000-09 can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statisticsanddata/prisonsandprobation/safetyincustody.htm

The published statistics show assaults on staff, including prison officers, by establishment. The statistics do not specifically identify prisoner on officer assaults as a separate group.

The Safety in Custody statistics for 2010 are due to be published on the Ministry of Justice website at the end of July.

Prisons: Security

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* covert tests, *(b)* unannounced tests and *(c)* planned tests with the objective of testing security processes, procedures and equipment in prisons have taken place in each prison in each of the last five years; and how many such tests were classed as (i) successful, (ii) partially successful and (iii) not successful. [55553]

Mr Blunt: The testing of security procedures is a routine task in most prisons with covert, unannounced and planned tests of both physical and procedural security taking place on a daily basis. Nearly all of the information pertaining to the results is only used for local analysis and not collated centrally. The exception is covert testing data for the eight prisons in the High Security Estate; these data have been collated centrally since 2007 and are included in tabular format as follows. To comprehensively list all other outcomes from routine security tests would require significant disproportionate cost as it would involve the collation of many thousands of separate individual records.

2007-08

Prison	*Successful*	*P/successful*	*Unsuccessful*	*Total tests*
Belmarsh	23	2	9	34
Frankland	28	2	6	36
Full Sutton	23	1	12	36
Long Lartin	26	3	7	36
Manchester	30	2	4	36
Wakefield	29	1	6	36
Whitemoor	33	0	3	36
Woodhill	25	2	6	33
Total	217	13	53	283

2008-09

Prison	*Successful*	*P/successful*	*Unsuccessful*	*Total tests*
Belmarsh	27	1	8	36
Frankland	31	4	1	36
Full Sutton	27	4	4	35
Long Lartin	31	1	3	35
Manchester	29	1	6	36
Wakefield	27	0	9	36
Whitemoor	28	1	6	35
Woodhill	29	3	4	36
Total	229	15	41	285

2009-10

Prison	*Successful*	*P/successful*	*Unsuccessful*	*Total tests*
Belmarsh	24	1	4	29
Frankland	31	0	4	35
Full Sutton	21	4	6	31
Long Lartin	20	1	3	24
Manchester	22	0	7	29
Wakefield	19	0	8	27
Whitemoor	25	1	4	30
Woodhill	20	5	6	31
Total	182	12	42	236

2010-11

Prison	*Successful*	*P/successful*	*Unsuccessful*	*Total tests*
Belmarsh	66	0	4	70
Frankland	40	2	1	43
Full Sutton	19	2	8	29
Long Lartin	11	3	11	25
Manchester	19	0	9	28
Wakefield	17	1	7	25
Whitemoor	26	4	14	44
Woodhill	30	5	7	42
Total	228	17	61	306

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many tests designed to test security processes, procedures and equipment in prisons identified areas of concern in each of the last five years. [55556]

Mr Blunt: The testing of security procedures is a routine task in most prisons with covert, unannounced and planned tests of both physical and procedural security taking place on a daily basis. Nearly all of the information pertaining to the results is used for local analysis only and not collated centrally. The exception is covert testing data for the eight prisons in the High Security Estate; these data have been collated centrally since 2007 and are included in tabular format as follows. It is important to note that the failure of a test does not necessarily mean that it has identified areas for concern; this is a value judgment that cannot be readily extrapolated from the data held. To comprehensively identify all other failures of routine security tests would require significant disproportionate cost as it would involve the collation of many thousands of separate individual records.

	Tests completed	*Unsuccessful tests*
2007-08	283	53
2008-09	285	41
2009-10	236	42
2010-11	306	61
Total	1,110	197

Prisons: Suicide

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals attempted to commit suicide in the prison estate in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [55488]

Mr Blunt: Self harm is a complex behaviour and determining intent is often very difficult. The National Offender Management Service, (NOMS), uses a broad definition that includes attempts to commit suicide. Self-harm in prison custody is defined as:

> "any act where a prisoner deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent or severity of any injury."

Self harm statistics for 2006-09 are included in the Safety in Custody statistics on the Ministry of Justice website at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statisticsanddata/prisonsandprobation/safetyincustody.htm

Statistics for 2010 are not yet available. The Safety in Custody statistics for 2010 are due to be published on the Ministry of Justice website at the end of July.

Young Offenders: Alternatives to Prison

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent reports he has received on the effectiveness of the intensive alternative to custody pilot schemes for young adult offenders; [55051]

(2) how many young adult offenders were placed on intensive alternative to custody programmes in each of the pilot areas; and how many completed successfully their orders; [55052]

(3) for what reasons he decided not to extend the intensive alternative to custody pilot scheme for young adult offenders; and what plans he has for the future of the existing pilot areas; [55053]

(4) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff North of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 154W, whether he plans to commission an evaluation of the effects of the Intensive Alternative to Custody pilot schemes on re-offending among young adults who participated. [55067]

Mr Blunt: A summary report of research on the Intensive Alternatives to Custody pilot schemes is currently being prepared. It is based on several process evaluations of the seven pilot sites, consideration of the results on the feasibility of conducting an evaluation of the impact of IAC on re-offending, and an economic break-even analysis. This report is due to be published in the summer. Further process evaluations of the IAC pilot sites are currently being concluded and reports will be published in due course.

They cover all adult offenders, and do not currently disaggregate young adults from other adults.

The following table is a breakdown of young adult offenders undertaking an Intensive Alternative to Custody by pilot area.

	Age group	
	18-20	*21-24*
Derbyshire	58	64
Dyfed-Powys	15	44
Humberside	40	68
Manchester	147	140
Merseyside	46	57
South Wales	27	45
West Yorkshire	93	98
Total	426	516

NOMS does not centrally keep statistical information on successful completion rates by age. The overall completion rate per pilot area for all IAC offenders is as follows:

			Transfers		*Other*	*Completion*	
Area	*Total starts*	*Revoked*	*Out*	*In*	*Medical/deceased*	*Normal/early completion*	*Current case load*
Derbyshire	274	134	6	—	1	71	62
Dyfed-Powys	112	59	—	1	—	27	25
Humberside	276	100	—	—	2	82	92
Manchester	322	91	2	—	1	88	140
Merseyside	203	46	4	1	1	55	96
South Wales	186	75	3	—	2	68	38
West Yorkshire	479	107	4	0	—	148	219
Total	1,851	612	19	2	7	539	672

Of the 1,851 of offenders sentenced to IAC by 1 March 2011, 539 had successfully completed with 672 still completing their orders.

There was never an intention to extend funding centrally beyond the end of the pilots. As the pilots have come to a close, each of the pilot areas has investigated ways either to mainstream provision or to expand delivery. Some areas have modified the IAC by combining the management of offenders with an Integrated Offender Management approach. This can reduce duplication of effort and maximise benefits realised through the contributions of partner agencies, thereby improving the efficiency of service delivery.

MoJ are exploring the possibility of conducting an evaluation of the IAC pilots which will compare reoffending rates for all IAC offenders with reoffending rates for similar offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months.

Young Offenders: Foster Care

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has for the future of the intensive fostering programme for juvenile offenders. [55054]

Mr Blunt: There are no current plans for the YJB to expand the existing four intensive fostering projects for sentenced young people. However, the Department of Education published on the 17 March a prospectus that sets out the details of a package of financial and other support to be made available to support evidence-based interventions for looked after children and children on the edge of care or custody. The interventions included in this package of support are Multi Systemic Therapy (MST), for children on the edge of care or custody, Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) and KEEP (parenting skills for foster carers) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT). They have been successful in helping some very vulnerable children and families to start to recover and to turn their lives around.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Health Services

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision exists for training placements for nurses in military hospitals. [55168]

Mr Robathan: Military hospitals no longer exist in the United Kingdom. However, to meet the clinical training need of medical service personnel, including nurses, Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs) have been established within five NHS Trust hospitals.

Over the past four years military nursing staffs have accessed clinical placements in 31 different NHS hospitals across England and Wales, as well as in the MDHUs, the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham and the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, where Defence Medical Services personnel work clinically.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Nimrod R1 will be retired; when the RC-135W Air Seeker will come into service; and which assets will fill the SIGINT and ELINT capability in the interim period. [55521]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), gave on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 392W.

Air Seeker is planned to enter service in 2014. Until then UK aircrew will be deployed on USAF Rivet Joint aircraft to provide electronic intelligence (ELINT) and signals intelligence (SIGINT) support to coalition operations. A number of other intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance capabilities will also be available to our armed forces during this time including: Sentry, Sentinel, Tornado GR 4 when fitted with a RAPTOR or Litening III pod, Typhoon when fitted with a Litening III pod, Sea King Mk7, Reaper Remotely Piloted Air System and Hermes 450 UAS.

Nuclear Submarines

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposals have been made by his Department to its French counterparts on the future joint operation of ship submersible ballistic nuclear fleets. [55424]

Peter Luff: None.

CABINET OFFICE

Deaths: Liver Diseases

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths from *(a)* liver cancer and *(b)* other liver disease there have been in (i) England and (ii) each parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years. [55252]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from (a) liver cancer and (b) other liver disease there have been in (i) England and (ii) each parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years. [55252]

The tables provide the number of deaths where the underlying cause was (a) liver cancer (Table 1) and (b) liver disease (Table 2) in England and each parliamentary constituency in England for the years 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54566]

Mr Maude: Pension benefits for Cabinet Office staff are provided through arrangements under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. Therefore the budget for the Cabinet Office does not include expenditure for paying pensions.

Government Departments: ICT

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the initiative to reduce back office IT costs across government. [43219]

Mr Maude: The Government ICT Strategy was published on 30 March 2011 and can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/uk-government-ict-strategy-resources

The strategy sets out the coalition Government's plans to reduce back office ICT costs across government and deliver better public services for less cost. All initiatives will be funded from within existing spending plans. By September the Government will publish a strategic implementation plan which will set out further details of the costs and benefits.

New Businesses

Mr Timpson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have been started in *(a)* Crewe and Nantwich constituency, *(b)* Cheshire East unitary authority, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1987. [55507]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated May 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new businesses have been started in (a) Crewe and

Nantwich constituency, (b) Cheshire East unitary authority, (c) the North West and (d) the UK in each year since 1987. [55507]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise births for the (a) Crewe and Nantwich constituency, (b) Cheshire East unitary authority, (c) the North West and (d) the UK in each year since 2002. Information relating to 2010 will be available following release of the latest Business Demography publication in November 2011.

Count of enterprise births from 2002-09 for Crewe and Nantwich constituency, Cheshire East unitary authority, North West and the UK

	Crewe and Nantwich constituency	*East Cheshire UA*	*North West*	*United Kingdom*
2002	325	1,605	24,625	242,540
2003	350	1,865	27,735	267,000
2004	345	1,795	28,845	280,080
2005	385	2,140	29,220	274,855
2006	360	1,915	27,265	255,530
2007	385	2,070	30,195	280,730
2008	375	1,960	27,465	267,445
2009	285	1,675	23,920	236,025

Public Sector: Procurement

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of progress in enabling small and medium-sized enterprises to tender for Government procurement contracts; and if he will make a statement. [53937]

Sajid Javid: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment has been made of progress in enabling small and medium-sized enterprises to tender for Government procurement contracts. [54279]

Mr Maude: On 11 February, the Prime Minister and I announced a series of measures to make it easier for SMEs to compete for Government contracts through:

Increasing visibility of opportunities—by the week commencing 2 May 2011, we had published 1,062 procurement opportunities on Contracts Finder, with registrations from 1,523 supplier organisations.

Simplifying prequalification—We are seeking to eliminate prequalification questionnaires below a £100,000 threshold and promoting use of the SME-friendly Open Procedure above £100,000, which is being tested on 11 projects. We will report on progress.

Streamlining the procurement process—We are applying a 'lean' approach to strip out unnecessary overhead from Government procurement processes.

Feedback—Introducing a new Mystery Shopper service. Three out of four completed cases concluded by the Mystery Shopper service have resulted in changes to simplify the procurement process. The first SME Panel meeting—allowing SMEs the opportunity to critically evaluate progress on the programme is scheduled for the end of June and will be chaired by the MCO.

We will be publishing, in May or June, Central Government Departments' specific action plans detailing how they will increase the amount of their business going to SMEs. We will also publish statistics showing progress towards the Government's aspiration that 25% of its procurement expenditure should go to SMEs. Baseline data for 2009-10 are currently being collected and will be published once they are available.

Statistics

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the quality of public statistics; and if he will make a statement. [55500]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Sir Michael Scholar KCB, dated 12 May 2011:

As Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your question asking what recent assessments have been made of the quality of public statistics [55500].

The UK Statistics Authority was established on 1 April 2008 by the coming into force of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The Statistics Authority has a statutory objective of promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good.

The Act requires the Authority to prepare and adopt a Code of Practice for Official Statistics, to use the Code of Practice to assess and determine whether the Code has been complied with in relation to any official statistics, and to designate those official statistics which have been assessed by the Authority as compliant with the Code as National Statistics.

The Authority also monitors the production and publication of official statistics and makes reports about any concerns it might have about quality, good practice or comprehensiveness of any official statistics.

The Authority publishes Assessment Reports following each of its statutory assessments, setting out requirements and suggestions to the relevant producer departments. Assessment Reports also indicate the Authority's decision in respect of designation as National Statistics and any conditions that should be met for designation to be confirmed. Assessment Reports and details of the Authority's Assessment forward work programme are published on the Statistics Authority's website at

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/index.html

The Authority has published 114 Assessment Reports covering 550 statistical outputs since June 2009. A paper setting out the Authority's findings from the first 100 Assessment Reports was published in April 2011 and is available at

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-briefs/monitoring-brief-2-2011---findings-from-the-first-100-assessment-reports.pdf

The Authority also publishes Monitoring Reports, shorter Monitoring notes, and items of correspondence with the Statistics Authority on specific issues that are of concern to the Authority. These are also published on the Authority's website at

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/index.html

and

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/index.html

EDUCATION

Brighton and Hove: Funding

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many ring-fenced grants provided by his Department were available for Brighton and Hove city council to claim in 2011-12; how much is available in such grants; how many such grants have been made; and how much is to be awarded in such grants. [51847]

Mr Gibb: The funding streams to local authorities were rationalised for 2011-12 and there are two ring-fenced revenue grants available to Brighton and Hove council in 2011-12. These are the dedicated schools grant and the pupil premium grant.

Funding for both grants is allocated on the basis of pupil numbers and total allocations for each grant will be confirmed in June 2011 once pupil number data from the January 2011 Census have been validated and agreed. For Brighton and Hove the grants will be allocated on the following basis:

	Amount per pupil (£)
Dedicated schools grant	
Guaranteed unit of funding (GUF)	5,017.08
Pupils eligible for pupil premium grant	
Eligible for free school meals	430.00
Looked after children	430.00
Service children	200.00

Education: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to provide additional assistance to schools for the administration of 16 to 19 bursaries. [55037]

Mr Gibb: Schools, colleges and training providers are able currently to use up to 5% of their allocation of discretionary funds to meet the costs of administering the scheme; this will continue following the introduction of the 16 to 19 bursary fund.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to communicate to students details of the eligibility criteria for the proposed 16 to 19 bursary system; and what funds he has allocated for this purpose. [55041]

Mr Gibb: Information on the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is currently available on the Department for Education website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentsupport

and will be updated after the end of the current consultation. We will also consider what further communication may be necessary. In doing so we will work with representative bodies of schools, colleges, training providers and others, to ensure appropriate communication of the new arrangements at a local level. We do not expect this activity to involve communications paid for by Government, in order that the maximum possible resource can be directed towards providing financial support for students.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what dates students requesting 16 to 19 bursary funding in financial year 2011-12 will receive their first payment. [55042]

Mr Gibb: Exact dates of payments will depend on the student's circumstances and the arrangements put in place by schools, colleges and training providers for administering the fund locally.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department plans to give schools and colleges on the final date on which applications for 16 to 19 bursaries may be submitted for funds to be disbursed in financial year 2011-12. [55043]

Mr Gibb: Decisions regarding the date by which young people should apply for support from the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund to receive payment in either the 2011-12 financial or academic year will be made locally. We will consider, following the ending of the consultation on the new arrangements, whether guidance is necessary on this matter.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* school sixth forms and *(b)* further education colleges he expects to offer 16 to 19 bursaries in academic year 2011-12. [55044]

Mr Gibb: The proportion of school sixth forms and further education colleges that will receive an allocation of funding for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund will depend on the methodology for allocating funding, on which we are currently consulting. Decisions regarding the awarding of bursaries to students will be made locally by schools, colleges and training providers.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to prevent any discrimination in the administration of the proposed 16 to 19 bursary scheme. [55045]

Mr Gibb: As we concluded in our equality impact assessment, we do not expect there to be any discrimination against young people on the basis of the protected characteristics which are set out in equalities legislation.

With the exception of the guaranteed funding available to those young people from the most vulnerable groups, decisions about allocating the bursary funding will be for schools, colleges and training organisations to make. We do not intend to restrict this discretion. Schools, colleges and training providers are subject to equalities legislation, which means that they must not discriminate against their students on the basis of their protected characteristics, and they are also subject to the public sector equality duty in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

We will monitor the impact of the introduction of the new fund, including with reference to levels of support by disability, ethnicity, gender and the other characteristics. We will also make sure that guidance to schools, colleges and training organisations is clear that they should consider their duty to promote equalities in making arrangements for the distribution of the fund.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to publicise and raise awareness of the 16 to 19 bursary scheme; and how much funding he has allocated for that purpose. [55048]

Mr Gibb: Information on the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is currently available on the Department for Education website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentsupport

and will be updated after the end of the current consultation. We will also consider what further communication may be necessary. In doing so we will work with representative bodies of schools, colleges, training providers and others, to ensure appropriate communication of the new arrangements at a local level. We do not expect this activity to involve communications paid for by Government, in order that the maximum possible resource can be directed towards providing financial support for students.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 49-50W, on free schools, what criteria his Department used in making decisions to consider further or reject proposals for free schools for 16 to 19 year olds; whether *(a)* local further education and sixth form colleges and *(b)* local authorities will be informed about those proposals his Department is considering further; and what mechanism he has put in place to enable the public to (i) receive details of and (ii) comment on the proposals. [53238]

Mr Gibb: The proposals for 16 to 19 free schools referred to in my answer of 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 49-50W, were assessed against a set of core criteria, including the strengths of the proposals' aims and objectives, evidence of demand and suitability of premises and the proposers' capacity and capability. The Education Bill currently before Parliament contains provisions to make the necessary changes to the legislative framework to enable 16 to 19 free schools to be established. Subject to Royal Assent of the Education Bill, the first opportunity for such free schools to open will be September 2012. Applicants will be judged against the minimum and comparative criteria laid out in the recently published guidance document for free schools opening in 2012, details of which can be found at:

www.education.gov.uk/freeschools

Under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010, the Secretary of State has a duty to take account of the impact that establishing a new school might have on existing maintained schools, academies and institutions within the further education sector in the area where the free school is to be situated. This would include further education and sixth form colleges. The views of local authorities will also be taken into consideration when exercising this duty. The duty, in section 10 of the Academies Act 2010, is on the Academy Trust to consult with whom they deem appropriate on whether to enter into academy arrangements with the Secretary of State in relation to an additional school.

GCSE

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what number and proportion of children *(a)* receiving and *(b)* not receiving free school meals were entered for GCSEs in English, mathematics, science, history or geography and an ancient or modern language in the latest period for which figures are available. [53965]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table.

GCSE entries for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 by free school meal eligibility 2010 (final), coverage: England, maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs)

	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[1]	*Pupils not eligible for free school meals*[1]
GCSE entries by subject:		
(i) English		
Number	71,235	486,625
Percentage of pupils	92	97
(ii) Mathematics		
Number	71,931	488,710
Percentage of pupils	93	98
(iii) Science[2]		
Number	54,958	427,790
Percentage of pupils	71	85
(iv) History		
Number	14,131	159,981
Percentage of pupils	18	32
(v) Geography		
Number	11,446	135,553
Percentage of pupils	15	27
(vi) An ancient or modern language[3]		
Number	18,712	215,161
Percentage of pupils	24	43
English, mathematics, science[2]*, an ancient or modern language*[3] *and either history or geography:*		
Number	7,495	131,134
Percentage of pupils	10	26

[1] Does not include pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

[2] Pupils who entered at least one GCSE in core science, additional science, double award science, single award science, physics, chemistry or biological science.

[3] Pupils who entered at least one GCSE in French, German, Spanish, Welsh, Irish, Danish, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese. Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Persian, Czech, Swedish, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Classical Greek, Latin and other languages.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what number and proportion of children *(a)* receiving and *(b)* not receiving free school meals attained grade C or above at GCSE in English, mathematics, science, history or geography and an ancient or modern language in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [53966]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table:

Achievements at GCSE for pupils at the end of key stage 4 by free school meal eligibility and local authority 2009/10 (final). Coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)

	Achieving grade A-C in English, mathematics, science[1], history or geography and an ancient or modern language[2] at GCSE[3]*			
	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4] (FSM)		*Pupils not eligible for free schoolmeals[4] (non-FSM)*	
	Number of FSM pupils achieving	*Percentage of FSM pupils achieving*	*Number of FSM pupils achieving*	*Percentage of FSM pupils achieving*
North East				
Darlington	6	4	129	13
Durham	25	3	593	13
Gateshead	7	2	376	21
Hartlepool	4	2	99	10
Middlesbrough	11	2	118	10
Newcastle upon Tyne	12	2	342	17
North Tyneside	10	5	327	17
Northumberland	7	2	442	14
Redcar and Cleveland	10	3	207	12
South Tyneside	7	2	103	7
Stockton-on-Tees	8	2	348	18
Sunderland	7	1	310	11
North West				
Blackburn with Darwen	9	2	106	8
Blackpool	8	3	112	9
Bolton	35	5	353	12
Bury	28	11	445	23
Cheshire East	16	5	777	21
Cheshire West and Chester	16	4	761	21
Cumbria	14	3	923	17
Halton	10	3	109	9
Knowsley	5	1	61	5
Lancashire	65	4	1,894	16
Liverpool	46	3	651	18
Manchester	36	2	277	9
Oldham	15	2	194	8
Rochdale	20	3	162	8
Salford	[1]—	[1]—	144	8
Sefton	24	5	432	15
St Helens	3	1	165	10
Stockport	14	4	476	18
Tameside	15	4	259	10
Trafford	31	10	841	33
Warrington	5	2	451	20
Wigan	18	3	447	13
Wirral	47	5	861	29
Yorkshire and the Humber				
Barnsley	6	1	179	8
Bradford	22	2	472	11
Calderdale	10	3	423	19
Doncaster	12	3	296	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	13	5	723	19
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	7	1	127	6
Kirklees	25	4	592	15
Leeds	43	3	1,064	16
North East Lincolnshire	3	1	116	7
North Lincolnshire	4	2	204	11
North Yorkshire	27	6	1,502	23
Rotherham	15	3	348	11
Sheffield	22	3	730	15
Wakefield	18	4	412	12
York	4	3	379	23

Achievements at GCSE for pupils at the end of key stage 4 by free school meal eligibility and local authority 2009/10 (final). Coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)

	Achieving grade A-C in English, mathematics, science[1], history or geography and an ancient or modern language[2] at GCSE[3]*			
	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4] (FSM)		*Pupils not eligible for free schoolmeals[4] (non-FSM)*	
	Number of FSM pupils achieving	*Percentage of FSM pupils achieving*	*Number of FSM pupils achieving*	*Percentage of FSM pupils achieving*
East Midlands				
Derby	17	4	297	12
Derbyshire	20	3	1,152	14
Leicester	39	6	321	11
Leicestershire	12	3	772	11
Lincolnshire	19	3	1,603	20
Northamptonshire	41	6	1,238	17
Nottingham	14	2	239	12
Nottinghamshire	23	2	1,273	16
Rutland	[1]—	[1]—	127	27
West Midlands				
Birmingham	175	4	1,556	19
Coventry	13	2	263	9
Dudley	23	4	410	12
Herefordshire	10	6	392	22
Sandwell	6	1	160	5
Shropshire	15	7	633	21
Solihull	10	3	551	20
Staffordshire	20	2	1,312	15
Stoke-on-Trent	7	1	172	8
Telford and Wrekin	19	6	346	19
Walsall	20	3	374	13
Warwickshire	16	4	1,109	19
Wolverhampton	17	3	315	14
Worcestershire	14	3	963	17
East of England				
Bedford	[1]—	[1]—	236	15
Central Bedfordshire	3	2	394	14
Cambridgeshire	28	6	1,354	24
Essex	38	3	2,314	15
Hertfordshire	64	7	3,482	29
Luton	28	6	201	10
Norfolk	42	5	1,415	17
Peterborough	10	3	272	14
Southend-on-Sea	18	7	576	29
Suffolk	19	3	1,079	15
Thurrock	5	2	140	9
Inner London				
Camden	39	8	235	23
City of London	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hackney	56	11	157	19
Hammersmith and Fulham	44	13	297	42
Haringey	42	6	235	16
Islington	46	8	78	9
Kensington and Chelsea	18	15	117	27
Lambeth	24	5	116	10
Lewisham	23	5	246	14
Newham	111	8	243	13
Southwark	43	6	214	13
Tower Hamlets	61	4	66	7
Wandsworth	28	7	293	21
Westminster	65	13	193	23
Outer London				
Barking and Dagenham	25	5	86	5

Achievements at GCSE for pupils at the end of key stage 4 by free school meal eligibility and local authority 2009/10 (final). Coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)

	Achieving grade A-C in English, mathematics, science[1], history or geography and an ancient or modern language[2] at GCSE[3]*			
	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4] (FSM)		*Pupils not eligible for free schoolmeals[4] (non-FSM)*	
	Number of FSM pupils achieving	*Percentage of FSM pupils achieving*	*Number of FSM pupils achieving*	*Percentage of FSM pupils achieving*
Barnet	56	10	1,071	38
Bexley	17	6	638	21
Brent	62	10	475	22
Bromley	20	7	801	26
Croydon	37	7	538	17
Ealing	60	9	465	21
Enfield	66	8	684	24
Greenwich	26	5	213	12
Harrow	51	13	460	26
Havering	12	5	601	21
Hillingdon	29	6	369	15
Hounslow	66	13	473	22
Kingston upon Thames	10	10	500	37
Merton	12	6	216	16
Redbridge	80	16	708	26
Richmond upon Thames	20	10	308	27
Sutton	9	5	911	37
Waltham Forest	49	8	254	13
South East				
Bracknell Forest	[5]—	[5]—	209	20
Brighton and Hove	17	5	357	18
Buckinghamshire	21	6	1,841	34
East Sussex	13	3	791	16
Hampshire	58	6	2,805	21
Isle of Wight	11	5	143	11
Kent	56	4	3,567	23
Medway	9	3	467	15
Milton Keynes	9	3	322	13
Oxfordshire	18	4	1,326	22
Portsmouth	7	3	192	11
Reading	5	3	222	26
Slough	13	5	387	29
Southampton	7	2	124	7
Surrey	29	5	2,489	24
West Berkshire	7	6	470	25
West Sussex	29	6	1,651	21
Windsor and Maidenhead	8	10	358	25
Wokingham	[5]—	[5]—	489	27
South West				
Bath and North East Somerset	8	5	557	26
Bournemouth	22	10	325	21
Bristol, City of	10	2	343	14
Cornwall	16	3	617	11
Devon	29	5	1,172	17
Dorset	17	6	928	23
Gloucestershire	28	6	1,514	23
Isles of Scilly	n/a	n/a	—	—
North Somerset	6	3	362	17
Plymouth	9	2	511	19
Poole	5	4	399	26
Somerset	11	3	873	16
South Gloucestershire	9	5	464	15
Swindon	6	2	211	11
Torbay	8	4	335	25

Achievements at GCSE for pupils at the end of key stage 4 by free school meal eligibility and local authority 2009/10 (final). Coverage: England, maintained schools (including academies and CTCs)

	Achieving grade A-C in English, mathematics, science[1], history or geography and an ancient or modern language[2] at GCSE[3]*			
	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4] (FSM)		*Pupils not eligible for free schoolmeals[4] (non-FSM)*	
	Number of FSM pupils achieving	*Percentage of FSM pupils achieving*	*Number of FSM pupils achieving*	*Percentage of FSM pupils achieving*
Wiltshire	13	5	1,015	20

n/a = not applicable. There are no pupils at the end of key stage 4 in this FSM category

[1] Figures not shown in order to protect pupil confidentiality

Notes:

1. Pupils who achieved at least one A*-C grade in core science, additional science, double award science, single award science, physics, chemistry or biological science GCSEs.
2. Pupils who achieved at least one A*-C grade in French, German, Spanish, Welsh, Irish, Danish, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Persian, Czech, Swedish, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Classical Greek, Latin and other languages.
3. iGCSEs, accredited at time of publication, have been counted as English and mathematics GCSEs.
4. Does not include pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children of each ethnicity achieved A* to C GSCE grades in English, mathematics, one language, two sciences and history or geography in 2010. [54898]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is in the following table.

Achievements at GCSE for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 by ethnicity in 2009/10[1,2], coverage: England, maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs)

		Number of pupils achieving A-C grades in:*					
	Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4	*English[3]*	*Mathematics*	*Language[4]*	*At least two sciences[5]*	*Either History or Geography*	*English[3] Mathematics. Language[4], at least two sciences[5] and either History Geography*
White	477,313	316,446	296,878	128,368	218,704	155,692	73,668
White British	456,606	303,923	284,344	118,832	209.939	149,435	70,124
Irish	2,006	1,495	1.391	715	1.111	921	503
Traveller of Irish Heritage	123	36	30	4	16	11	•
Gypsy/Roma	534	89	72	26	34	18	•
Any Other While Back ground	18,044	10,903	11,039	8,791	7,604	5,307	3,038
Mixed	16,040	12,280	11,161	5,515	8,150	5,375	2,823
White and Black Caribbean	6,430	3,975	3,368	1.239	2,227	1,359	548
White and Black African	1,693	1,166	1,062	559	745	474	237
White and Asian	3,516	2.657	2,554	1,387	2,019	1,385	834
Any Other Mixed Background	6,401	4,432	4,177	2.330	3.159	2,157	1,204
Asian	42,440	28,654	28,300	14,778	20,478	12,698	6,606
Indian	13,099	10,419	10,253	5,841	8,292	5,300	3,176
Pakistani	16,273	9,823	9,352	4,558	6,155	3,827	1,682
Bangladeshi	6,495	4,202	4,089	1,667	2,718	1,565	603
Any Other Asian Background	6,573	4,210	4,596	2,692	3,313	2,006	1,145
Black	24,163	15,186	13,792	5,883	8,858	5,322	2,160
Black Caribbean	8,033	4,823	4,074	1,389	2,526	1,426	544
Black African	13,372	8,706	8,243	3,773	5,393	3,349	1,394
Any Other Black Background	2,758	1,657	1,475	721	939	547	222
Chinese	2,236	1,730	2,032	1,531	1,556	1,040	763
Any Other Ethnic Group	6,616	3,977	4,158	3.098	2,795	1,638	920
Unclassified[6]	7,251	4,665	4,370	2,127	3,186	2.332	1,170

Achievements at GCSE for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 by ethnicity in 2009/10[1,2], coverage: England, maintained schools (including Academies and CTCs)

		Number of pupils achieving A*-C grades in:					
	Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4	English[3]	Mathematics	Language[4]	At least two sciences[5]	Either History or Geography	English[3] Mathematics, Language[4], at least two sciences[5] and either History Geography
All pupils	578,059	382,938	360,689	161,300	263,727	184,097	86,110

* = Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

[1] Final Data.

[2] In 2010 iGCSEs, accredited at lime of publication, have been counted as GCSE equivalents and also as English and mathematics GCSEs.

[3] Highest grade achieved in English, English Studies or English Language.

[4] Covers the following GCSE languages: French, German, Spanish. Danish, Dutch, Italian, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Persian.

[5] The two sciences can be either; (i) Double science GCSE or (ii) GCSE Science (Core or Applied) plus GCSE Additional Science or Applied Additional Science or GCSE Land and Environment or (iii). At least two of the following subjects: Physics GCSE, Chemistry GCSE and Biological Science GCSE.

[6] Includes pupils for whom ethnicity or first language was not obtained, refused or could not be determined.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Health Education: Sex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 779-80W, on health education: sex, when he plans to place copies of the information in the Library; if he will send a copy of the information to the hon. Member for Southend West; and if he will make a statement. [55298]

Tim Loughton: The information requested was placed in the House Libraries on 11 May 2011, and a copy has been sent to the hon. Member.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of schools in Coventry sent at least one pupil to the university of *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge in each of the last 13 years. [54951]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

Information has been supplied by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and is in the following table.

Schools in Coventry with applicants accepted to full-time undergraduate courses at Oxford university or university of Cambridge via UCAS

	Oxford university		University of Cambridge	
Year of entry	Number of schools with acceptances	Percentage of schools with acceptances	Number of schools with acceptances	Percentage of schools with acceptances
2001	2	25	3	38
2002	2	25	2	25
2003	2	25	1	13
2004	3	38	1	13
2005	3	38	2	25
2006	1	13	2	25
2007	2	25	3	38
2008	2	25	3	38
2009	2	25	3	38
2010	2	25	3	38

Source:
UCAS

Schools have been identified as those with a postcode in the Coventry North East, Coventry North West and Coventry South parliamentary constituencies. Other kinds of centres have not contributed to this analysis. Only schools from which UCAS received applications in the cycle concerned have contributed to the proportion calculation. Data for earlier years have not been provided as the necessary reference data are not available.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to the letter of 17 March 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton transferred from the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to Mr Nyongo. [54782]

Tim Loughton: The right hon. Member's letter of 17 March was responded to on 5 May. Please accept my apologies for the delay.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Regulation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Government intends to exempt any regulations from the moratorium on new domestic regulation for small businesses announced in the 2011 Budget. [55174]

Mr Prisk: We expect the moratorium to be applied to all new regulations unless a compelling case is put forward for a waiver. At present no waivers have been agreed for regulations planned for commencement on 1 October.

A small number of regulations were exempted from the micro-business moratorium at the 4 April common commencement date, either because excluding micro-businesses would completely undermine the policy intention or because exclusion would not be meaningful in policy terms. These were:

Migration Cap—Introducing an annual limit on the number of non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work (Tier 1, 2 and 4);

Travel Concession Schemes Regulations (Transport Act 1985);

Equality Act 2010 (application of Seafarers);

Competition Act 1998 (Land Agreement Exclusion Revocation);

Flood Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee (England) Regulation.

Departmental Information Officers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many press officers his Department employs. [55333]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) currently employs 27.3 press officers.

This includes one press officer shared between, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK Trade and Investment and BIS. This excludes one press officer working in BIS but employed by the Intellectual Property Office.

Private Rented Housing: Regulation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 669W, on private rented housing: regulation, whether *(a)* sole traders and *(b)* partnerships are included in the Government's definition of a micro business. [55266]

Mr Prisk: I can confirm that both sole traders and partnerships with fewer than 10 employees are included in the definition of a micro business.

UK Trade & Investment: AssetCo

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether staff of UK Trade & Investment have provided *(a)* advice and *(b)* support to AssetCo plc; in which years such advice and support was given; and what the total cost to the public purse was of such advice and support. [54889]

Mr Prisk: Records show that UKTI assisted AssetCo in 2008, 2010 and 2011. Information on the nature of any support given to individual companies UKTI assists is commercially sensitive and held in confidence.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

National Lottery

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what information his Department holds on the criteria Camelot applies in considering existing businesses with lottery terminals when deciding whether to introduce further such terminals to a locality; and whether his Department issues guidance on this matter; [55630]

(2) what information his Department holds on the criteria to be met for Camelot to install a lottery terminal in *(a)* a supermarket and *(b)* other business premises; [55631]

(3) if he will direct *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Lottery Commission to investigate the process whereby Camelot allocates lottery terminals to (i) supermarkets and (ii) small retailers; [55633]

(4) what regulations govern the allocation by Camelot of new lottery terminals to *(a)* independent retailers and *(b)* supermarkets. [55634]

John Penrose: Decisions on the selection of National Lottery retailers are a matter for Camelot in line with the requirements of its licence to operate the National Lottery. This includes an obligation to:

> "ensure that fair and clear criteria are specified and applied for retailers to qualify for selection and deselection (and) make the criteria available on request."

The National Lottery Commission is responsible for checking that criteria are in place and are reasonable. I understand that the Chair and Chief Executive of the National Lottery Commission have met the hon. Member to discuss this issue and would be happy to discuss any further concerns with her. I have no plans to look at the process of allocation of lottery terminals at this time.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Lottery Commission have received on the practices of Camelot in allocating lottery terminals to supermarkets. [55635]

John Penrose: According to departmental records, in addition to the representations from the hon. Member, the Department received two representations from Members of Parliament on behalf of constituents about the allocation of National Lottery terminals to nearby supermarkets or multiples in the last financial year. Over the same period, the National Lottery Commission received 14 representations, on behalf of applicants for National Lottery terminals, about Camelot's allocation of terminals. We do not hold information on whether these were specifically about the allocation of terminals to supermarkets.

Television: Local Broadcasting

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many organisations have submitted to his Department expressions of interest to operate the new national television spine supporting local television. [55577]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has received 21 expressions of interest from organisations specifically interested in operating a network channel to support local TV.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport by what date he expects the first local television stations to begin broadcasting. [55578]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Structural Reform Plan states that the first local services are to be licensed by summer 2012. The services are then expected to start broadcasting following this, most likely from 2013 onwards.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what plans he has for future development of local television services; [55579]

(2) what progress has been made on the bidding process for a new national television spine to support local television; and if he will make a statement. [55581]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is currently analysing responses to the local media action plan. I will make a statement once this work has been completed.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much resource his Department has allocated to manage the bidding process for a new national television spine. [55580]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As a bidding process is not yet under way, no resource has been allocated.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of his Department's budget he expects to be spent on staff pensions in each of the next five years. [54557]

Robert Neill: The proportion of the Department's budget to be spent on employer contributions to staff pensions in each of the next five years will be determined by whatever changes are agreed to the Principal Civil Service scheme following the recommendations in the Button Review.

When the civil service pension arrangements were reformed in 2009, a commitment was made to share future increases (and decreases) in scheme costs between active scheme members and employers and to cap the average employer contribution at 20% (currently 18.9%) of pay. Changes will take effect from April 2012.

Housing: Construction

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce details of his proposed pilot land auctions; and if he will make a statement. [54133]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 May 2011]:* The Government announced in "The Plan for Growth" published at Budget 2011 that they will pilot the land disposal elements of the land auction model. The details of the pilot will be announced in due course.

The land auctions model seeks to capture a greater share of the land value uplift created by the granting of planning permission than is currently the case. This may bring a number of benefits compared to the current system of allocating land for development, potentially making significantly more land available for development, increasing competition and bringing greater certainty and reduced risks for developers. It would work alongside existing mechanisms such as the community infrastructure levy. The model would generally involve local authorities auctioning planning permission on parcels of land, owned either by the public sector or private landowners who want to participate.

Local Government Resource Review

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to complete the review of the funding formula as part of the local government resource review. [55576]

Robert Neill: The terms of reference of the Local Government Resource Review were set out in a written statement on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 19-21WS. The Government intend to set out their proposals for consultation in due course.

Ordnance Survey: Southampton

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total gross cost to the public purse is of the Ordnance Survey's new offices at Adanac Park, Southampton. [50993]

Robert Neill: The cost of the new offices to Ordnance Survey was £43.6 million.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: United Arab Emirates

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the inventory of *(a)* military and *(b)* other equipment that the United Arab Emirates contributed to the Gulf Co-operation Council force sent to Bahrain in March 2011. [54827]

Alistair Burt: We have seen no evidence that the United Arab Emirates have contributed anything other than a military contingent and their personal equipment.

Departmental Buildings

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building owned by his Department; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such building. [53804]

Mr Lidington: In the United Kingdom, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) owns three properties:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH
(value: £105 million)
Old Admiralty Building
London SW1A 2PA
(value: £57 million)

and

Hanslope Park
Milton Keynes
MK19 7BH
(value of whole site; £22 million)

Overseas, the names and addresses of all public FCO buildings are available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/find-an-embassy

Providing a break-down of which are owned and which of these are rented could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The names and addresses of non public-facing properties (eg staff residential properties overseas) are generally not disclosed by the FCO since putting such addresses into the public domain may put staff at greater risk of terrorism or other criminal activity.

The FCO estate is valued annually by professional chartered surveyors, and the latest total market values of properties, aggregated by country, are contained in the following table. The FCO does not publish its current valuations of individual buildings, since this information is commercially sensitive and could prejudice the FCO's ability to extract best value for the UK taxpayer in negotiations with third parties.

The FCO does, however, recognise that the sensitivity of such valuations diminishes over time, and the Department contributes to the centrally published asset values produced by HM Government. The latest figures can be found in the 2007 National Asset Register Chapter 10, pages 417-421, where a list of all FCO owned properties valued in excess of £1 million was last published. The link is:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm70/7022/7022.pdf

FCO estate summary by country 2010 (figures rounded to nearest £10,000)

Property valuations summed by country

Directorate	*Country*	*Value at September 2010 (£)*
Africa Directorate	Angola	14,850,000
Africa Directorate	Botswana	2,010,000
Africa Directorate	Cameroon	500,000
Africa Directorate	Congo	6,060,000
Africa Directorate	Ethiopia	160,000
Africa Directorate	Gambia	2,740,000
Africa Directorate	Ghana	8,700,000
Africa Directorate	Ivory Coast	840,000
Africa Directorate	Kenya	16,470,000
Africa Directorate	Malawi	3,110,000
Africa Directorate	Mauritius	4,680,000
Africa Directorate	Mozambique	2,070,000
Africa Directorate	Namibia	1,910,000
Africa Directorate	Nigeria	26,040,000
Africa Directorate	Rwanda	570,000
Africa Directorate	Senegal	4,570,000
Africa Directorate	Seychelles	970,000
Africa Directorate	Sierra Leone	2,280,000
Africa Directorate	South Africa	12,940,000
Africa Directorate	Sudan	5,170,000
Africa Directorate	Tanzania	11,520,000
Africa Directorate	Uganda	9,890,000
Africa Directorate	Zambia	5,540,000
Africa Directorate	Zimbabwe	8,980,000
Americas Directorate	Antigua and Barbuda	90,000
Americas Directorate	Argentina	28,300,000
Americas Directorate	Barbados	4,610,000
Americas Directorate	Belize	1,280,000
Americas Directorate	Bolivia	1,410,000
Americas Directorate	Brazil	6,840,000
Americas Directorate	Canada	36,370,000
Americas Directorate	Chile	7,790,000
Americas Directorate	Colombia	3,180,000
Americas Directorate	Costa Rica	1,320,000
Americas Directorate	Ecuador	1,510,000
Americas Directorate	Falklands	360,000
Americas Directorate	Guatemala	3,920,000
Americas Directorate	Guyana	1,120,000
Americas Directorate	Jamaica	6,690,000
Americas Directorate	Mexico	6,380,000
Americas Directorate	Montserrat	1,540,000
Americas Directorate	Panama	2,850,000
Americas Directorate	Peru	9,510,000
Americas Directorate	St Lucia	390,000
Americas Directorate	St Vincent and Grenadines	0
Americas Directorate	Trinidad and Tobago	990,000
Americas Directorate	United States	132,480,000
Americas Directorate	Uruguay	4,100,000
Americas Directorate	Venezuela	6,100,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Australia	31,980,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Burma	2,960,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Fiji	1,430,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Hong Kong	115,080,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Indonesia	19,750,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Japan	26,780,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Korea	40,780,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Laos	1,330,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Malaysia	27,620,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	New Zealand	7,830,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Papua New Guinea	2,750,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Philippines	11,630,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Singapore	46,780,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Solomon Islands	450,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Thailand	158,850,000
Asia and Pacific Directorate	Vietnam	1,960,000
Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate	Armenia	1,910,000
Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate	Georgia	6,810,000
Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate	Kazakhstan	0
Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate	Russian Federation	1,570,000
Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate	Tajikistan	360,000
Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate	Ukraine	4,080,000
European Directorate	Albania	1,680,000
European Directorate	Austria	15,660,000
European Directorate	Belgium	14,290,000
European Directorate	Bulgaria	3,730,000
European Directorate	Cyprus	10,490,000
European Directorate	Czech Republic	6,290,000
European Directorate	Denmark	7,760,000
European Directorate	Estonia	650,000
European Directorate	Finland	17,450,000
European Directorate	France	129,000,000
European Directorate	Germany	32,620,000
European Directorate	Greece	30,670,000

FCO estate summary by country 2010 (figures rounded to nearest £10,000)

Property valuations summed by country

Directorate	*Country*	*Value at September 2010 (£)*
European Directorate	Holy See	500,000
European Directorate	Hungary	3,930,000
European Directorate	Iceland	610,000
European Directorate	Irish Republic	7,970,000
European Directorate	Italy	68,070,000
European Directorate	Latvia	1,450,000
European Directorate	Lithuania	1,880,000
European Directorate	Luxembourg	2,700,000
European Directorate	Macedonia	210,000
European Directorate	Netherlands	11,690,000
European Directorate	Norway	16,720,000
European Directorate	Poland	26,630,000
European Directorate	Portugal	10,830,000
European Directorate	Romania	5,380,000
European Directorate	Serbia	3,690,000
European Directorate	Slovakia	3,940,000
European Directorate	Slovenia	470,000
European Directorate	Spain	8,570,000
European Directorate	Sweden	22,550,000
European Directorate	Switzerland	49,140,000
European Directorate	Turkey	16,390,000
Home Estate	United Kingdom	184,710,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Algeria	13,500,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Bahrain	12,600,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Egypt	50,000,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Iran	89,050,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Iraq	0
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Israel	9,970,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Jerusalem	4,010,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Jordan	9,780,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Kuwait	40,790,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Morocco	4,350,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Oman	11,040,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Qatar	0
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Saudi Arabia	23,120,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Syria	1,910,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Tunisia	4,850,000
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	United Arab Emirates	0
Middle East and North Africa Directorate	Yemen	4,090,000
South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate	Bangladesh	120,000
South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate	India	61,310,000
South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate	Nepal	220,000
South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate	Pakistan	31,230,000
South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate	Sri Lanka	17,830,000
Global	All countries total	2,042,480,000

Embassies: Buildings

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent in the last two years on improvements to embassy and high commission properties in each country in each of the last two years. [54599]

Mr Lidington: Improvements to properties are partly funded by budgets devolved to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's network of overseas posts, so the information is available only in the form requested at disproportionate cost.

Shoaib Assadullah

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Afghan Government on the case of Shoaib Assadullah; and if he will make a statement. [55262]

Alistair Burt: We have worked with the international community to raise this case with the Afghan Government.

We continue to remind the Afghan Government of their duty to abide by their national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief.

Sri Lanka

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with UN counterparts on the UN Panel of Experts report on Sri Lanka. [55311]

Alistair Burt: Since its public release, we have discussed the report and recommendations with our UN counterparts, including the need for concrete action by the Sri Lankan Government on the recommendations. We have consistently called for an independent and credible investigation to address the allegations of war crimes committed by both sides in the military conflict and have urged the Government to respond constructively to the report.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent report of the UN Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka. [55312]

Alistair Burt: We welcome the UN Panel of Experts report to the UN Secretary-General on the issue of accountability for alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by both sides during the military conflict in Sri Lanka. The serious nature of the allegations in the report make clear that this issue must be resolved before lasting reconciliation can be achieved in Sri Lanka. We are studying the recommendations and report carefully, and urge the Sri Lankan Government to use it as a means to promote national reconciliation.

West Africa: Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the threat to UK shipping from piracy off the coast of West Africa. [55079]

Mr Bellingham: The levels of attacks and incidents of violence linked to piracy and armed robbery off the coast of West Africa has increased slightly, with eight actual or attempted attacks reported in the first quarter of this year alone, compared to six the previous year. To mitigate this risk, we are supporting the International Maritime Organisation and the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) to increase the integration of their coastguard functions through closer co-ordination and information-sharing. The UK will continue to provide assistance in co-ordination with international partners to build the maritime security capacity of regional countries in response to multiple maritime security challenges. We also welcome strongly the offer made by Ghana, with the assistance of the shipping industry, to host a Maritime Trade Information Sharing Centre to provide information and warnings to commercial shipping travelling in the region.

TREASURY

Corporation Tax: Businesses

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average value to businesses of his decision to reduce the main rate of corporation tax to 26% with effect from April 2011. [54609]

Mr Gauke: The total cost to the Exchequer in 2011-12 of the reduction in the main rate of corporation tax from 28% to 26% is £855 million. Around 85,000 companies will benefit from the change.

The full fiscal impact of the reductions in the main rate of corporation tax announced in the March 2011 Budget are shown in Table 2.1 (page 42) of the "Budget 2011" document published by HM Treasury on 23 March 2011. The impact of the reductions announced in June 2010 can be found in Table 2.2 (page 44).

A link to the full document is given here:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

Debts: Developing Countries

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is taking steps to encourage his counterparts *(a)* in the US Administration and France and *(b)* other members of the Paris Club to introduce legislation similar to the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. [55451]

Mr Gauke: The Government have decided to make the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010 permanent. The draft order was laid before Parliament on 28 March 2011.

The UK has shared information regarding UK legislation with Paris Club members and will continue to share its experience of addressing non-participation in debt relief with all members of the Paris Club.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is taking steps to encourage *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* other British Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories to introduce legislation in line with the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. [55452]

Mr Gauke: The Government have decided to make the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010 permanent. The draft Order was laid before Parliament on 28 March 2011.

The UK will share its experience of addressing non-participation in debt relief with Britain's Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories.

Departmental Manpower

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what efficiency savings will be required of the Valuation Office Agency in each of the next four years; and what changes in staffing levels are planned. [54303]

Mr Gauke: The Valuation Office Agency is net-funded by its clients for the services provided. Therefore its forecast funding depends on the future requirements of its major clients and an estimate of work likely to be obtained through competitive tenders in its Commercial Services work. Its forecast work over this period also includes the cyclical non-domestic rating revaluation which comes into effect on 1 April 2015. The current forecast funding for the next four years shows cumulative real terms efficiency savings of:

				Percentage
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Excluding revaluation 2015	4.6	11.3	19.5	21.0
Including revaluation 2015	4.6	8.4	9.7	13.6

Total staff numbers will also depend on final client requirements. The current overall forecast staff requirement in full-time equivalent terms is:

	Number
2011-12	3,559
2012-13	3,506
2013-14	3,545
2014-15	3,441

Excise Duties: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on excise duties: fuel, if he will submit an application to the European Commission for implementation of a five pence per litre discount on fuel duty for remote rural areas of North Yorkshire. [55035]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 680W.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the letter of 20 April 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North regarding changes to public sector pensions has not yet been transferred to another Department. [55622]

Danny Alexander: The case was transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government on 11 May.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what arrangements he has put in place in connection with the payment of £250 salary increases to lower-paid workers employed by the Government; [55632]

(2) pursuant to paragraph 2.18 of the June 2010 Budget, HC 61, what definition of *(a)* public sector and *(b)* workforces was used in the June 2010 Budget; and in what circumstances public sector workers earning £21,000 or less may not receive a pay increase. [54555]

Mr Gauke: The Government have announced a two-year pay freeze from 2011-12 for public sector work forces, except for those earning £21,000 or less, who will receive an increase of at least £250 per year.

This policy applies to work forces under ministerial control including the civil service and work forces with pay review bodies: doctors and dentists, NHS Agenda for Change, teachers, the armed forces and prisons. The Home Secretary determines police officer pay, taking into account the Police Negotiating Board's recommendations and the Government's policy on public sector pay.

Other work forces have responsibility for negotiating their own pay deals.

Radio Frequencies

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether funding granted to wireless microphone owners towards the cost of replacing redundant channel 69 equipment will be classified as a grant for tax purposes; and if he will make a statement; [52861]

(2) what effect funding granted to wireless microphone owners towards the cost of replacing redundant channel 69 equipment will have on a company's corporation tax liability; and if he will make a statement; [52862]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Ofcom, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* industry representatives on the tax treatment of funding to wireless microphone owners towards the cost of replacing redundant channel 69 equipment; and if he will make a statement. [52863]

Mr Gauke: Following receipt of these questions HM Treasury officials have discussed, with HMRC, the main corporation tax consequences of Ofcom's grants to companies following the relocation of users of channel 69. Where the amount is compensation paid for surrender of wireless equipment, then the amount will be taken into account in calculating the disposal value of the equipment for the purposes of making capital allowance or corporate gains calculations. Otherwise, receipt of the payment will generally be revenue, which will be taken into account in calculating the company's taxable profits.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 529W, on telephone services, how many telephone calls staff in the Debt Management Telephone Centre unit of HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* received from and *(b)* made to customers on 24 April 2011. [54859]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 9 May 2011]:* HMRC's Debt Management Telephone Centre handled 116 inbound and made 79 outbound telephone calls on Sunday 24 April 2011.

Taxation: Personal Income

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the average change to the level of income in *(a)* real terms and *(b)* cash terms as a result of his decision to increase the personal income tax allowance with effect from 5 April 2011; [54578]

(2) how many people have been affected *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each local authority by his decision to increase the personal income tax with effect from April 2011; [54606]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority who will no longer pay income tax following the decision to increase the personal income tax allowance with effect from April 2011. [54608]

Mr Gauke: The June 2010 Budget announced a £1,000 cash increase in the personal allowance for under 65s to £7,475 in 2011-12 (£820 above the previous Government's plans), with the benefits focused on individuals on low and middle incomes through accompanying changes to the basic rate limit and national insurance upper earnings and profit limits.

For basic rate taxpayers aged under 65 this represents a £164 real terms and £200 cash benefit.

As a result of these measures, the Government estimate that 22.6 million basic rate taxpayers will benefit in 2011-12, among which 830,000 of the lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether. Information at Government office region is provided in the following table.

Thousand

Government office region	*Basic rate gainers*	*Number taken out of income tax*
North East	973	35
North West and Merseyside	2,520	100
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,880	74
East Midlands	1,670	59
West Midlands	1,990	71
East of England	2,060	76
London	2,700	103
South East	3,040	98
South West	1,990	71
Wales	1,070	41
Scotland	2,000	67
Northern Ireland	612	23
Address abroad/ unknown	142	11
All	22,600	830

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Reliable estimates are not available at the local authority level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who will no longer be eligible to pay income tax following his decision to increase the personal income tax allowance in April 2012 in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area; [54600]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change to the level of income in *(a)* real terms and *(b)* cash terms following his decision to increase the personal income tax allowance for those aged under 65 years by £630 in April 2012; [54601]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each local authority who will be affected by his decision to increase the personal allowance for those aged under 65 years in April 2012. [54607]

Mr Gauke: The 2011 Budget announced a £630 cash increase in the personal allowance for under 65s to £8,105 in 2012-13 (£240 above indexation), with an equivalent reduction in the basic rate limit to leave the higher rate threshold unchanged.

For taxpayers benefiting from the personal allowance increase this represents a £48 real terms and £126 cash benefit. Those on incomes above £116,210 will pay £48 more in real terms and £126 in cash terms.

As a result of these measures, the Government estimates that 25 million taxpayers will benefit in 2012-13, among which 260,000 of the lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether. Information at Government Office Region is provided in the following table.

Thousand

Government Office Region	*Gainers*	*Number taken out of income tax*
North East	1,020	10
North West and Merseyside	2,680	28
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,000	26
East Midlands	1,820	18
West Midlands	2,140	25
East of England	2,350	25
London	3,170	30
South East	3,560	32
South West	2,170	24
Wales	1,130	10
Scotland	2,190	21
Northern Ireland	646	9
Address abroad/ unknown	157	3
All	25,000	260

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Reliable estimates are not available at the local authority level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

Taxpayers

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely number of income tax payers in 2011-12. [54979]

Mr Gauke: Projected income taxpayer numbers in 2011-12 are published in Table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers by marginal rate, gender and age, 1990-91 to 2011-12", available on the HMRC website at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-2.pdf

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 26 April 2011

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Public Bodies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on the public bodies reform programme, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department net of costs incurred in the assumption of additional departmental responsibilities to accrue from *(a)* the abolition of three public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility, *(b)* the merger of one such body and *(c)* the change in function of two such bodies. [48143]

[Official Report, 21 March 2011, Vol. 525, c. 856-57W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Chris Grayling:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) on 21 March 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Chris Grayling: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate net overall administrative savings from structural reforms over the spending review period of £0.141 million. Overall administrative reductions from reform of all departmental public bodies are currently estimated to be £17.95 million over the spending review period.

The correct answer should have been:

Chris Grayling: On 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General issued a written ministerial statement updating Parliament on progress on public bodies reform. That statement also announced that Departments estimate cumulative administrative savings of at least £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

I anticipate net overall administrative savings from structural reforms over the spending review period of **£0.354 million**. Overall administrative reductions from reform of all departmental public bodies are currently estimated to be £17.95 million over the spending review period.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Government Funding (Distribution)

The following is the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) relating to a question from the hon. Member for Derby North (Chris Williamson) during Communities and Local Government Question Time on 4 April 2011.

Chris Williamson (Derby North) (Lab): The wheels are well and truly coming off the Government's explanation for their swingeing cuts to local government—that is pretty clear. Contrary to his assertion that he would protect the most vulnerable by making his cuts "fair and progressive", the Secretary of State is actually imposing the biggest cuts on the country's poorest communities and leaving more affluent areas relatively unscathed. Even his own housing Minister confessed last week that the poorest areas will shoulder the harshest cuts. Will the Minister replying do the decent thing and admit that the Secretary of State's declaration about fairness and the Chancellor's assertion that we are all in it together are completely and utterly preposterous?

Andrew Stunell: The hon. Gentleman has of course used a selective quotation, and that is entirely his prerogative, but it does rather undermine his case. The reality is that no local authority in this country faces a reduction in its real expenditure of more than 7.7%, and offset against that is the new homes bonus that we have announced today, through which Lambeth, for instance, gets £1.9 million.

[Official Report, 4 April 2011, Vol. 526, c. 728-29]

Letter of correction from Mr Andrew Stunell:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 4 April 2011.

The correct answer should have been:

Andrew Stunell: The hon. Gentleman has of course used a selective quotation, and that is entirely his prerogative, but it does rather undermine his case. The reality is that no local authority in this country faces a reduction in its spending power of more than **8.8%**, and offset against that is the new homes bonus that we have announced today, through which Lambeth, for instance, gets £1.9 million.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 5 May 2011

CABINET OFFICE

Public Bodies

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 838W, if he will publish the departmental estimates that were collated to arrive at the stated estimates of savings. [50289]

[Official Report, 1 April 2011, Vol. 526, c. 540-41W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Francis Maude:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett) on 1 April 2011. The HO and total figures were incorrect.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Maude *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* On 16 March 2011, I announced that we estimate cumulative administrative savings of £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The departmental estimates that were collated to arrive at that figure are:

Department	*Estimated overall administrative savings from public bodies over SR period (£ million)*
BIS	882.00
CO	9.71
CLG	168.62
Local government public bodies	60.54
DCMS	206.35
DEFRA	269.51
DfE	673.88
DH	67.00
MoJ (inc AGO)	86.46
HO	132.00
GEO	37.16
MoD	1.59
DfT	21.59
DWP	17.95
Total	2,634.36

I also announced that when reductions in programme and capital spend are taken into account, we estimate that total spending through public bodies will be reduced by at least £11 billion per year by 2014-15, a cumulative amount of £30 billion over the spending review period. The breakdown of these figures by Department was announced as part of the spending review settlements.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Maude *[holding answer 31 March 2011]:* On 16 March 2011, I announced that we estimate cumulative administrative savings of £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period.

The departmental estimates that were collated to arrive at that figure are:

Department	*Estimated overall administrative savings from public bodies over SR period (£ million)*
BIS	882.00
CO	9.71
CLG	168.62
Local government public bodies	60.54
DCMS	206.35
DEFRA	269.51
DfE	673.88
DH	67.00
MoJ (inc AGO)	86.46
HO	**94.00**
GEO	37.16
MoD	1.59
DfT	21.59
DWP	17.95
Total	**2,596.36**

I also announced that when reductions in programme and capital spend are taken into account, we estimate that total spending through public bodies will be reduced by at least £11 billion per year by 2014-15, a cumulative amount of £30 billion over the spending review period. The breakdown of these figures by Department was announced as part of the spending review settlements.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 9 May 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Coastal Erosion: Kent

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much will be spent on Kent's coastal defences by the Environment Agency in each of the four years commencing 2011-12. [53669]

[Official Report, 4 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 782-83W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Richard Benyon:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) on 4 May 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Richard Benyon: Total flood defence grant in aid for sea defences in Kent in 2011-12 is £15,019.40. This includes both capital and revenue funding.

Finance for schemes beyond 2011-12 will be determined by the reforms which will be announced in due course following our recent consultation on future funding of flood and coastal erosion risk management in England.

The correct answer should have been:

Richard Benyon: Total flood defence grant in aid for sea defences in Kent in 2011-12 is **£15,019,400**. This includes both capital and revenue funding.

Finance for schemes beyond 2011-12 will be determined by the reforms which will be announced in due course following our recent consultation on future funding of flood and coastal erosion risk management in England.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 12 May 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

Logos

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on the (i) design and production of new logos and (ii) employment of external (A) public relations and (B) graphic design agencies for each project of logo design or redesign in each year since 2000. [53480]

[Official Report, 3 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 652-54W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Damien Green:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bury St Edmunds (Mr Ruffley) on 3 May 2011. The answer should not have included the 2005-06 spend attributed to the Information Commissioner, as it was not a Home Office agency.

The correct answer should have been:

Damian Green: The following table summarises the spend of the Home Office and its agencies (Identity and Passport Service (IPS), Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and UK Border Agency) on logo design and employment of public relations and graphic design agencies, broken down by project.

It is not possible to separate out design costs from design agency costs, and therefore costs provided above cover parts *(a)* and *(b)*.

The Home Office has spent nothing on design or production of new logos or on the employment of external public relations agencies for any project of logo design or redesign since 2008-09.

The UK Border Agency and IPS have spent nothing on design or production of new logos or on the employment of external public relations agencies for any project of logo design or redesign since 2007-08.

CRB have spent nothing on design or production of new logos or on the employment of external public relations agencies for any project of logo design or redesign since 2002-03.

	Owner	*Project*	*Description*	*Cost (£)*
2000-01	HO	New Home Office corporate ID	Design, research, project management and style guidelines	155,000
2001-02	CRB	Criminal Records Bureau	Design and production of new logos and external Public Relations	120,000
	HO	Fire Service Branding	Design	2,914
	HO	Positive Futures Branding	Design	4,000
	HO	Drugs Prevention Advisory Service Rebrand	Design	10,000
Total 2001-02				291,914
2002-03	CRB	Criminal Records Bureau	Design and production of new logos and external Public Relations	200,000
2003-04	HO	Active Communities Unit	Logo development and corporate ID	45,200
	HO	Immigration and Nationality Directorate IRIS Recognition Branding	Design and production	35,000
Total 2003-04				80,200
2004-05	HO	Home Office	Modification and update of brand guidelines	5,500
	HO	National Offender Management Service	Identity creation, production of artwork and branding guidelines	46,000
	HO	Her Majesty's Prison Service	Modification of logo and production of brand guidelines	10,500
	HO	National Probation Service	Modification of logo and production of brand guidelines	10,230
	HO	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	Logo update and literature production update	4,999
	HO	Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives programme	Design and production of new logo	21,890
	HO	Senior Careers Advisory Service	Design and production of new materials	4,260
	HO	Immigration and Nationality Directorate	Research and registration of IRIS logo	4,395
	HO	CENTREX Police Training Branding	Design and production	15,280
Total 2004-05				123,054
2005-06	HO	Senior Careers Advisory Service	Final production costs relating to 04-05 work	734

	Owner	*Project*	*Description*	*Cost (£)*
	HO	Drugs Intervention Programme	Production to refresh programme materials in line with core Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives brand	10,280
	HO	Respect	Design, research, project management and style guidelines	56,733
	HO	CENTREX Police Training Branding	Final production	3,760
	HO	Criminal Justice IT Programme	Design and production of materials to support programme	10,080
Total 2005-06				82,187
2006-07	IPS	Identify and Passport Service	Brand clinics and brand photography	37,825
2007-08	IPS	Identify and Passport Service	Brand workshops and brand photography	17,304
	BIA	Immigration and Nationality Directorate rebrand as Border and Immigration Agency	Identity creation, production of artwork and branding guidelines	79,920
	UKBA	Border and Immigration Agency rebrand as UK Border Agency	Logo and template design and brand guidelines	30,200
	HO	Home Office brand refresh	Design	2,540
Total 2007-08				129,964
2008-09	HO	Knives campaign	Design and publication of stakeholder comms materials	50,000

Ministerial Correction

Friday 13 May 2011

EDUCATION

Education Bill

The following is the response given by the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr Gibb) to a question from the hon. Member for North West Durham (Pat Glass) during the debate on the Education Bill on 11 May 2011.

Pat Glass: Local authorities have 14 days in which to comply with the decision of a special educational needs tribunal. Therefore, why is it unreasonable for schools to have 14 days to comply with the decision of the schools adjudicator, who is also a statutory body?

Mr Gibb: The example that the hon. Lady gives applies to one individual, but an objection to admission arrangements applies to an entire school, and therefore to a wider range of people, which means that consultation is necessary before those changes are made. That is the difference between the two examples.

[Official Report, 11 May 2011, Vol. 527, c. 1238.]

Letter of correction from Mr Nick Gibb:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for North West Durham (Pat Glass) during the debate of the Education Bill. I meant to say that "more consideration is necessary", not that "consultation is necessary".

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Gibb: The example that the hon. Lady gives applies to one individual, but an objection to admission arrangements applies to an entire school, and therefore to a wider range of people, which means that **more** consideration is necessary before those changes are made. That is the difference between the two examples.